

Seventh Series, Vol. IV, No. 5

Friday, June 13, 1980

Jyaistha 23, 1902 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session
(Seventh Lok Sabha)



(Vol. IV contains Nos. 1 - 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 6.00

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Friday, June 13, 1980 / Jyaistha 23,
1902 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Air Service between Trivandrum and Delhi

*81. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Kerala Government has requested the Centre to start a direct Air Service between Trivandrum and Delhi;
- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether Government propose to consider the demand; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). A request was received in March, 1980 and was examined in consultation with Indian Airlines. The Government of Kerala was informed that an immediate connection is available everyday for passengers travelling from Trivandrum to New Delhi via Bombay. For the journey from Delhi to Trivandrum the timings will

96 LS—

be improved later this year with the augmentation of Indian Airlines fleet.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: As it is, you know that Kerala is neglected for many things. But, in the matter of air-services, we can only get a connecting link to Madras. The services operate only for three days in a week. Will the Minister kindly see to it that in all the seven days of a week the link to Madras is arranged?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): Sir, the Indian Airlines will be augmenting their fleet from the month of June-July. With that augmentation, I think that it will be possible to provide a direct air link between Delhi and Trivandrum and back to Delhi.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: With regard to Kerala, we have only two aerodromes. Long before, the Government of India promised that we would have another aerodrome in Calicut. Will the Government see that expeditious steps are taken to start another aerodrome in Calicut also?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Although this question does not arise from this question, I am not in a position to give any answer on this point whether it would be possible to do that.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL: What the Minister has stated is that there are flights from Delhi via Bombay to Trivandrum. So also is the case with regard to Cochin. Is that the reason for not granting a direct flight from Delhi to Trivandrum? From Delhi to

Trivandrum there is a huge traffic as also cargo traffic.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: It is not correct to say that there is a huge traffic. As a matter of fact, the traffic may not justify a direct link. But, still, in consideration of the wishes of the people of Kerala and also in view of the representation made by Kerala Government, we have considered that with the augmentation of the fleet from next month, it may be possible for us to provide a direct flight between Delhi and Trivandrum and back to Delhi.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Is the decision taken by Government to have direct flights from Delhi to Trivandrum and back and so on a part of the policy of the Government's wanting to link Delhi with the State Capitals? If it is so, then what about the assurance given by the former Minister, Shri J. B. Patnaik to link State Capitals directly? So far, Delhi is not linked with all State Capitals.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: I quite agree with the hon. Member. It will be our endeavour again to see that with the augmentation of the fleet to see that most of the capitals, if not, all the capitals, are connected with Delhi.

SHRI MUNDACKAL GEORGE JOSEPH: We have to wait at Madras or at Bangalore long. Can't you change the timing in such a way so that we can reach there on the evening. At least early in the morning we may be able to go to our places. As it is we have to halt at Madras, Bombay or Bangalore. If the adjustment of time is made, then we would be able to go to Cochin or Trivandrum in the early morning straightway.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Sir, the hon. Member will not find this difficulty after we re-schedule the timings between Delhi and Trivandrum and Bombay and Delhi.

Reported Flight of Fokker-28 Aircraft over Chittagong Hill Tracts

*82. **SHRI SUNIL MAITRA:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on 9th May, 1980 a Fokker-28 aircraft with 39 passengers aboard after taking off from Agartala Airport on its way to Calcutta got lost and was seen flying over Chittagong hill tracts of Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, what was the nature of the mechanical fault that led to such a situation and the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDRALAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b). Preliminary reports indicate that Indian Airlines F-27 aircraft VT-EBJ operating scheduled flight IC-238 took off from Agartala at 2100 hrs, deviated from the normal route due to bad weather and landed at Calcutta at 2345 hrs. on May 8, 1980.

The matter is under investigation by the Director General of Civil Aviation.

SHRI SUNIL MAITRA: Sir, according to the *Calcutta Statesman* of May 10, a F-27 aircraft after taking off from Agartala airport had lost its way due to navigational fault. A British Airways aircraft coming to Calcutta after receiving the alert from the flight information centre could establish contact with F-27 aircraft and led it safely to the Calcutta airport. Now, this news has been attributed by the *Statesman* to the British Airways sources and the *Statesman* says that the British Airways have issued a statement to that effect. Will the Government call for a copy of the statement and ascertain whether the version given by the Minister here is correct or the version given in the *Statesman* is correct. If the version of

the British Airways is correct that it lost way due to navigational fault then is it because of the old-age of the aircraft, and would the Government propose immediately to replace these aircrafts, the over-riding consideration being the safety of the passengers and the crew that fly such aircraft?

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRA-KAR: Sir, investigations into this matter are in progress. It is only when we get the investigation report that we will come to know the details as to when the British aircraft informed the Indian Airlines pilot. But the fact is that weather was very bad in one of the air pockets. In fact, when the pilot took off he wanted to avoid one air pocket from the main normal route which came in the way. Incidentally, it so happened when he was trying to avoid it and going to Calcutta to reach in proper time he found another air pocket. That is why he was delayed. But, Sir, it will be the investigation report which will be able to give us the actual details. But I would like to inform the House that later on the aircraft was checked and it was found to be air-worthy. There was nothing wrong with the aircraft.

SHRI SUNIL MAITRA: I would like to know are these F-27 aircrafts equipped with flight data recorders. From the flight data recorder all these things can be verified. Secondly, if flight data recorder are not there, then what safety measures does the Government contemplate to take? Further are these aircrafts equipped with back-up system, that is, in case of failure of one system the other system takes over?

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRA-KAR: Sir, we are awaiting the investigation report. The preliminary enquiries reveal that the aircraft had to make alteration in the direction of the flight of the aircraft so as to avoid turbulent weather. (*Interruption*). I

know, I am coming to that. When you are saying, well, Calcutta radar could not guide the aircraft.

SHRI SUNIL MAITRA: I did not say that. What I asked was whether the aircraft was fitted with Flight data recorder or not. You can say yes or no. It is called F.D.R.

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRA-KAR: That will be known when the detailed report is given.

MR. SPEAKER: Have you followed him?

SHRI SUNIL MAITRA: The question is fitted with flight data recorder or not.

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRA-KAR: We will find out (*Interruption*) We will try to find out the details.

AN HON. MEMBER: What is the point in saying, find out?

SHRI SUNIL MAITRA: Probably he does not know what a flight-data recorder is.

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRA-KAR: Flight data recorder is available. It is not that it is not there. Detailed investigation will reveal that.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: He says 'flight recorder is available'. The hon. Member's question was: was it fitted in this plane or not. That may be available in France or England and so on. That is a different matter. His question was whether it was fitted in this plane or not.

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRA-KAR: It is available in the plane.

MR. SPEAKER: His question is simple. He wants to know whether this plane was fitted with that device or not.

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRA-KAR: It is fitted with that device.

SHRI SUNIL MAITRA: F-27 aircrafts are not fitted with that device. He should check up with his officials and tell us. First he should check up and then say it.

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION: (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): Sir, it is mentioned here that the Calcutta radar could not guide the aircraft. Now, we do find, Sir, that these aircrafts are fitted with radars. But we will...

MR. SPEAKER: No radar. He says, flight recording recorder, black-box. That is there to record the flight. Was it there?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: It is fitted, Sir.

SHRI SPEAKER: That is it. Next question, Shri Pradhani.

Import of Coal

***83. SHRI K. PRADHANI:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Government have decided to import coal from foreign countries; and

(b) if so, how much and what are the details regarding the requirements for country's public sector steel plants this year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) While no final decision has been taken the import of a portion of the requirement of coking Coal for steel plants during 1980-81 is under the consideration of Government.

(b) The total requirement of coking coal for the steel plants including TISCO during 1980-81 is:

	In million tonnes
(i) SAIL Steel Plants	14.136
(ii) TISCO	2.890
Total	17.026

SHRI K. PRADHANI: Mr. Speaker, may I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that during last year, from April to December, 1979, there was short supply of coal to the steel plants of the order of 10,000 tonnes a day. If so, what was the shortfall in the production of steel due to short supply of coal?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: The shortfall in the production of steel is mainly because of two counts. One is, non-availability of coking coal. The second is power. But in regard to the shortfall in coking coal, we could augment our supply by importing some coking coal. Thereby the shortfall in the indigenous production was met to some extent. It is just not possible to identify and say on what counts, whether on account of coking coal, or on account of non-availability of power, what percentage of production went down and all that.

SHRI K. PRADHANI: May I know whether the coal proposed to be imported is of a better quality? what is the delivery price the coal proposed to be imported?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: The whole object is to have coking coal of lower ash content. It is in the order of 8 to 10 per cent. As it is known to the hon. Members, the indigenous coking coal is having ash content to the extent of 21 to 26 per cent and what we are importing would have 8 to 10 per cent of ash content. This imported coking coal is blended with the indigenous coking coal so that the overall ash content is reduced.

So far as the price is concerned, this year we have not yet taken any decision to import coking coal; it is under consideration of the Government. It is, therefore, not possible for me to indicate at what price level it would be available. Naturally, the negotiation and other things will have to be made. So far as the price of the last year is concerned, I can give the information to the hon. Member. We imported coking coal from Canada at Rs. 688 per tonne and from Australia at Rs. 592 per tonne.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, the coal is a very important source of energy for our country. I would like the hon. Minister to state:

(a) Under what circumstances is he forced to import the coal particularly when the country is rich with the estimated reserves of hundred billion tonnes awaiting exploitation? We have this much coal in our country and it is based on research and exploration that we have done.

(b) If the imports are as a result of shortfall in production as made out, what are the steps that the Government proposes to take to increase production?

(c) Will the imports alone help the country tide over the present crisis with the present imbalance in the distribution network, particularly because of the difficulties in rail transport?

(d) If not, what effective steps are being taken by the Government to tone up the rail movement of coal to ensure timely supply to major consumers like steel mills, thermal power stations etc.?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I agree with the hon. Member that we have the reserves of coal to the extent of 15,000 million tonnes and naturally it would be our endeavour to improve our indigenous production. But perhaps the hon. Member is missing one point. The reserves of coking coal are not adequate. According to the experts, the reserves of coking coal which we have may not last for many years

with the expansion of the steel plants. According to some experts, it can last only for 30—40 years.

Secondly, the problem is of the ash content. It is not the problem of non-availability. Because of the power shortage, the production in the washeries also suffers and it is not possible for us to improve the domestic production and reduce the ash content by more and more washing. But I do agree with the hon. Member that import is a short-term measure only to tide over the present crisis, and ultimately, we must take various steps to improve our indigenous Production and my colleague in the Ministry of Energy and Coal is looking after that matter.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: But we are taking too long a time.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: It is not too long a time. If the hon. Member is interested, I can give him some figures of production of indigenous coal also. In the year 1975-76, it was 12.895 million tonnes and in 1978-79, it was 13.625 million tonnes. Therefore, production is also going up. And this I am relating to the indigenous coal supply to the steel plants. There are certain constraints as the hon. Members are aware. As there is no power, there is no coal; as there is no coal, there is no power; as there is no movement of the coal by railways to the thermal power station or to the steel plants, the power generation and the steel production is going down. A Cabinet Committee is looking after that aspect. To some extent, the railway transportation system has improved....(Interruptions). I do agree with the hon. Members that we must concentrate on improving our indigenous production and after all our requirement is 17 million tonnes this year and we are depending on 15 million tonnes indigenous production and the import is to be marginal.

SHRI R. K. MHALGI: What special efforts are being made to increase the

production of coking coal indigenous-
ly?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I have already stated that we are trying to do this by exploring new mines, by expanding the capacities of wher-
ies to reduce the ash content and by streamlining the transportation from the producing areas to the consuming areas etc.

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही: मंत्री महारेष ने कहा है कि क्रोयले के प्रोडक्शन में शार्टफाल हुआ है। मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि जो शार्टफाल हुआ है उससे कितना बाटा हुआ है?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I have already mentioned that our expected demand would be 17 million tonnes and according to the Coal au-
thorities, they can provide us 15.8 million tonnes of indigenous coking coal. Therefore, the shortfall so far as the steel sector is concerned is 1.2 million tonnes.

Bank Average in West Bengal vis-a-vis in the country

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*84. **SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:**

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while on an average there is one bank per 20,000 people in the country but in West Bengal there is one bank per 35,000 people;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that credit deposit ratio of the rural and semi-urban branches in West Bengal was 24% and 35% against the national average of about 35% and 47% respectively;

(d) if so, reaction of Government thereto; and

(e) steps taken by Government to remove the disparity?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

As at the end of December 1979, on an average, there was one bank branch for every 22,000 people in West Bengal. The corresponding all India average was one branch for every 17,000 people. However, ex-
clusive of the branches at urban and metropolitan centres and the popula-
tion of such centres, there was one rural/semi-urban branch for every 35,000 rural/semi-urban people in West Bengal and for every 22,000 people for the country as a whole.

Several factors such as the heavy backlog of neglect of rural and semi-urban areas by the banks in the pre-nationalisation days, limited capacity of the banks to undertake branch expansion programme in rural areas and limited availability of growth centres with adequate infra-structural facilities and good business potential had contributed to the poorer banking coverage of the rural areas in West Bengal.

The credit : deposit ratios of the rural and semi-urban branches in West Bengal were 34.7 per cent and 23.7 per cent respectively as at the end of June 1979. The correspond-
ing all-India ratios were 54.4 per cent and 47.3 per cent respectively.

The Government have been concerned about the inadequate banking coverage of the rural and semi-urban areas in West Bengal both in terms of availability of banking facilities in and flow of credit to rural and semi-urban areas. To improve their population coverage, particularly in underbanked rural and semi-urban areas, the banks have been asked to devote their branch expansion pro-
gramme during 1979-81 primarily to the opening of branches at unbanked rural and semi-rural centres in defi-

cit districts so as to ensure by 1981 a coverage ratio of one rural/semi-urban branch for every 20,000 rural/semi-rural people. In terms of this programme, the banks are required to open 785 branches at rural/semi-urban centres in deficit districts of West Bengal. The Reserve Bank of India is coordinating the implementation of the programme by the banks in consultation with the State Government. Banks have also been asked to devote special attention and effort towards ensuring larger credit assistance to the priority sectors in general and to the beneficiaries of the 20-Point Programme in particular and to endeavour to step up the credit: deposit Ratio of their rural and semi-urban branches. As the programme of recording the rights of the share-croppers progresses, the banks also will be able to increase their lending to the agricultural sector.

On 5th April this year I specially took, at Calcutta, a meeting of the representatives of the Banks operating in West Bengal, the Reserve Bank of India and the State Government, to discuss the problem of slow banking development in West Bengal and to consider measures to rectify the situation. Banks were asked to take expeditious steps to increase credit deployment in West Bengal, special attention being devoted to the priority sectors and within those sectors to the poorer segments of the society. To ensure that the problem of credit deployment in West Bengal was reviewed on a continuing basis, it was also decided to set up a Standing Working Group, with the Reserve Bank as the convenor and representatives of the State Bank of India, the three lead banks in the State and the State Government as members. This Group has since been set up. The Group will meet regularly and oversee the measures being taken by the Banks for increasing their credit assistance to the priority sectors and to the beneficiaries of the 20-Point Programme in West Bengal.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: The statement admits disparity in the matter of coverage of population by the banks as also the credit: deposit ratio. In the statement, it is stated:

"However, exclusive of the branches at urban and metropolitan centres and the population of such centres, there was one rural/semi-urban branch for every 35,000 rural/semi-urban people in West Bengal and for every 22,000 people for the country as a whole".

It is far below the overall average. It is good that the Government has come out with this admission. However, one of the reasons advanced for this disparity is:

"....heavy backlog of neglect of rural and semi-urban areas by the banks in the pre-nationalisation days...."

Nationalisation had taken place long before. What about post-nationalisation days—1969 to 1980? The same neglect is continuing and this must be admitted honestly. (Interruptions). The credit: deposit ratio in West Bengal is also far below the average and this also has been admitted by the Minister in the statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question now.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: The statement has been laid on the Table of the House. Let it be known to all the hon. Members also. Had he given an oral answer, all the Members would have known about these facts. Therefore, I am reading this. The general impression is that West Bengal is an advanced State.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:
Politically.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: The statement admits:

"The credit: deposit ratios of the rural and semi-urban branches in West Bengal were 34.7 and 23.7 percent respectively as at the end of June, 1979. The corresponding all-India ratios were 54.4 per cent and 47.3 per cent respectively."

The complaint of the people is that West Bengal has been consistently neglected in this matter, in fact, the whole of eastern belt, not West Bengal alone. Now, some steps have been suggested by the Government. I welcome those steps; and the Minister himself has taken the initiative in this matter. But he has stated:

"Banks have also been asked to 'devote special attention and effort towards ensuring larger credit assistance to the priority sectors in general and to the beneficiaries of the 20-Point programme in particular and to endeavour to step up the credit: deposit ratio of their rural and semi-urban branches. As the programme of recording the rights off the share-croppers progresses."

(Interruptions).

AN HON. MEMBER: You put the question. The statement has been made available to all of us.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Generally. Ministers give oral replies. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: No, No direct exchanges. Order please. Now listen to me. Let me handle it. Mr. Mukherjee, I must bring to your notice that it is not a special thing that this has been distributed. This is a particular practice that we are always having in this House. Statements are laid on the Table of the House daily. I would now like you to put the question (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: I have your point,

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: My specific question is: the Minister has stated:

"As the programme of recording the rights of the share-croppers progresses, the banks also will be able to increase their lending to the agricultural sector."

MR. SPEAKER: You are not putting the question.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Already the recording of share-croppers is almost on the verge of completion. More than 10 lakhs have been recorded already. My question is: how much money has been advanced from the banks to these share-croppers? There is the reply that 'we have instructed.' The more the recording progresses, the more the loan will be given. My concrete question is: how much loan has already been given to them, whose names have been recorded, viz. share-croppers. This is one question.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The improvement that has occurred in Bengal will be apparent, if I give the figures about the banking services before nationalization, and now. At the time of bank nationalization, there was only one bank for every 87,000 people. To-day, we have one bank for every 22,000 people. I want the House to judge whether progress has been made or not. The second thing is why credit has not been given in a greater measure in Bengal. In the rural areas, credit is given to land-owners and people who have right on land. In the land tenure system in West Bengal, as my hon. friends know, share-croppers were not registered, and were not known. It is only in recent years that their record of rights has taken place. That is why I went to Bengal, taking note of all the circumstances there. I held a meeting.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: You went to Calcutta, not to Bengal. (Interruptions)

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: We

are always treated by the wisdom of hon. Jyotirmoy Bosu from time to time that it makes other people... (Interruptions) I don't get the benefit of his wisdom. The reason is that the records of rights were not there. Therefore, it was not given in the earlier period and I said after the record of rights is becoming more complete now, the loan to the rural population particularly people who have got tenancy rights will be increased. This is the position. I would also like to give some more figures because the hon. friend said that the West Bengal has been badly treated. Well, it is not so. If you look at all the blocks, in every one of the development blocks, there is a branch bank. In the block headquarters in the whole of Bengal only 13 places do not have the bank; and I have instructed that before the end of the year 1980 all the 13 block headquarters also should have it. Next I will also say how far we have met the request from the West Bengal Government in this matter. The West Bengal Government suggested that they should have 732 branches. The Reserve Bank has already sanctioned 426 branches of commercial banks. The Reserve Bank has suggested that there will be regional rural banks in 172 places. In respect of remaining, names have been asked for. Therefore, the number of branches which are going to be opened will be equal to the number as requested by them. I may also add for the information of the House as well as the hon. members that the Reserve Bank has suggested something more than what even the West Bengal Government has requested.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: My question is how much work has been done after this decision?

SHRI R. VENTAKARAMAN: We do not have separate account how much has been given to share-croppers. We have only account of the

amount given to the rural population, then to small scale industry and so on. It is very difficult to get information about the share-croppers alone; it will not be possible to get the information.

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL: May I know from the hon. Minister whether lack of adequate credit facility has been responsible for closure of several small scale and medium industries in West Bengal resulting in unemployment of a large number of people; whether the government will take immediate steps to ensure adequate credit facilities to those units so that units which have been closed for want of credit facility can be reopened at an early date?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The government have no information that small scale industries have been closed down only on account of the lack of credit facilities; and if the credit facilities are required and if an approach is made to the bank, it will be considered on the merit of each case.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: One Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank, incharge of banking, made a confession that no rural credit survey particularly with regard to financing of the major cash crop, that is, jute has been conducted ever. Is it or is it not a fact that the Reserve Bank authorities who are the final authorities for opening new branches are standing in the way because they want to keep the rural jute growers and other peasantry in perpetual indebtedness in the hands of the big monopoly houses.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: I want a notice for the first part of the question. My answer to the second part of the question is that the Reserve Bank has agreed to sanction more branches than even what the Bengal Government has asked for

श्री मूलचंद डागा: अधिकार महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि बैंकों की नहूँ शासायें जनसंस्था के आधार पर खोली जायेंगी या ऑफिल के आधार पर क्या इस बात का भी ध्यान रखा जायेगा कि उन क्षेत्रों में शासायें खोली जायें, जहां आदिवासी और पिछड़े हुए लोग ज्यादा रहते हैं?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: This relates to West Bengal and if he puts a separate question about Adi-vasis, I will give an answer.

श्री मूल चंद डागा: एरिया क्या होगा? जैसे राजस्थान में जैस्लमेर है, बाड़मेर है, उस का एरिया बहुत बड़ा है, तो उस में कितनी एरिया में आप खोलेंगे? एरिया आप कंसिडर करेंगे या व्या काइटीरिया होगा?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The principles on which banks open their branches are stated by the Reserve Bank. Generally they go by the population, the needs of the place, the various small scale industries and other things which have developed there. There are four or five—criteria and if they satisfy the criteria, the branch is opened. Whether these criteria are satisfied or not, in every block we see that there is one branch. —

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: The hon. Minister has admitted that West Bengal, especially rural West Bengal has not been covered by the bank services properly. Is he aware that West Bengal Government has given a proposal to the Central Government to open a bank. I want to know whether he will give proper instructions to West Bengal government to open its own bank.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Opening of a bank is within the exclusive privilege of the Reserve Bank of India. People have to apply to the Reserve Bank and the Reserve Bank may or may not give. I give

information as to what happened in the House.

Committee on Gold Auctions

*85. **SHRI K. MALLANNA:**

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have appointed a Committee to go into the working of Gold Auctions in 1978; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the terms of reference of this Committee and the time by which its report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Government of India have appointed Shri K. R. Puri, former Governor, Reserve Bank of India, to examine the various policy and procedural aspects relating to the sale by auctions in 1978 of gold held on Government account and to advise the Government as to the further course of action to be taken in the light of his findings.

The terms of reference are as follows:—

(i) to examine whether the policy decision of the then Government to offer for sale a part of the gold held on Government account was in the public interest and was based on sound economic considerations;

(ii) to examine whether the policy procedures evolved for the sale of gold were such as to adequately safeguard the public interest and whether the procedures laid down were observed at different stages;

(iii) to examine and advise the Government whether *prima facie* any impropriety had been committed at any stage in the sale of gold and if so, to recommend such further action as may be considered appropriate;

(iv) to examine and advise the Government whether *prima facie* the scheme had been abused by some interested persons and in particular whether there was any cornering of gold by any individual or group of individuals directly or indirectly and if so, to recommend the course of action to be adopted; and

(v) also to examine such other matters as may be relevant for the purposes of the above enquiry.

Shri K. R. Puri has been requested to submit his report before 1-9-1980.

SHRI K. MALLANNA: I have gone through the statement and also the terms of reference. A very important term of reference was omitted, according to me : what was the specific purpose contemplated by the Janata government and whether that purpose has been fulfilled, if not, why not? I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he proposes to include it in the terms of reference.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : In the budget speech my predecessor, Shri H. M. Patel stated that the purpose of gold auctions was to control the price of gold and prevent smuggling. Even at that time when he made the proposal, I criticised it from the other side of the House. I said that it would be a disastrous policy. I also went to the extent of saying that posterity would call my hon. friend Shri H. M. Patel as the 'prodigal son of India.' In my opinion the purpose for which Shri H. M. Patel said he was selling gold had not been fulfilled.

SHRI K. MALLANNA: Was the purpose for which gold was sold by

the Janata Government fulfilled or not? Will the hon. Minister include it in the terms of reference?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: I have stated in the statement:

"to examine whether the policy decision of the then Government to offer for sale a part of the gold held on Government account was in the public interest...."

That is one of the terms of reference: it is there.

SHRI K. MALLANNA: May I know whether any time limit has been fixed for Mr. Puri to submit his report? If not, what is the difficulty in fixing a time limit?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: It has been fixed and it is said that the time limit is 1st September, 1980.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Regarding this gold we have heard so much as gold scandal and so many people are involved in it.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Which gold scandal?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: The one which you have done. The one you are supporting now.

Recently, the then Finance Minister had said that the gold auction was done in a proper way. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether it is a fact I believe that a Committee has been formed to go into the gold scandal. If the adverse remarks are made by the Committee, what action the Government propose to take against those people?

MR. SPEAKER: It is no question.
(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: If they are proved guilty, what action do they propose to take?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: I assure the hon. Member that I will cross the bridge when I come to it. Actually when the report is received, we will consider the report and take

the appropriate action on the basis of the report.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Part (a) of my question was—the then Finance Minister said that the gold auction was in a proper order. I would like to know....

MR. SPEAKER: But he has to form his view.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: According to the documents available....

MR. SPEAKER: No....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded without my permission.

(Interruptions) **

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: The Prime Minister of the country consistently, carried on a public campaign during the Lok Sabha election and Assembly elections in nine States that during the Janata Government when gold was auctioned, the gold that was secured from the people during 1962, 1965 and 1971 war was auctioned. That was squandered away. I would like to know specifically from the Finance Minister, is it a fact?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: I do not know what the Prime Minister stated in the election campaign. I cannot answer for others. I can tell you this information, the gold in the possession of the country consists of two parts or rather three parts:—

1. The Gold reserve kept under the Reserve Bank Act.

2. The Gold Bonds Gold.

3. The surplus gold which we have consists of gold which we are producing in Huttī Mines and the gold which we confiscate from the public—smugglers and all that.

But all these three are kept as one stock and out of that stock gold has been sold. Afterwards they said that gold which was sold from that stock will be treated as having come out of the gold which has been confiscated. My simple answer is whether that is

**Not recorded.

a confiscated gold or Huttī Mine gold, it is Government gold and Government gold has been frittered away.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: My question has not been answered. I have asked a very sharp and pointed question. Sharp and pointed answer has been given in the other House. I want the same answer in this House. I have asked the question. It has been alleged by the Prime Minister that the gold which the Government secured in 1962, 1965 and 1971 war, that was the gold that was auctioned. I want to know is it a fact that that gold was auctioned or confiscated gold was auctioned?

MR. SPEAKER: It is Government gold. He has already replied. He has already replied that it is government gold. That gold in the custody of the Government is government gold from whatever source it might have come from.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: It is government gold, whether it is Huttī Mine gold or confiscated gold. It is Government gold and that Government gold has been sold. In my opinion it was frittered away. That is all I have to say.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Why don't you protect me? How can the Finance Minister give contradictory answers in the two Houses?

MR. SPEAKER: I think the answer is quite relevant, because he has said whatever gold comes into the treasury of the Government, it is Government gold. How can you distinguish between this gold and that gold?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You can go through the proceedings of Rajya Sabha.

MR. SPEAKER: I think the answer is quite relevant. I am not convinced.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: The same question was put to the same Finance Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: You can give me notice that this is a wrong answer and

I will look into it. I think it is quite relevant. I do not allow you.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I take it for granted that the Finance Minister in both Houses functions as the Finance Minister of the same Government and therefore, he is expected to give the same answer.

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: He is misleading the House....

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing you. Nothing will go on record without my permission.

(Interruptions).*

SHRI K. K. TEWARY: When this question of gold auction was taken up in the first session of the Lok Sabha, some allegations were levelled against the then Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, and his son, Shri Kanti Desai. I would like to know in the most unequivocal terms from the hon. Minister whether this committee which has been formed to go into the allegations also includes in its terms of reference Shri Morarji Desai and Shri Kanti Desai?

MR. SPEAKER: The terms* of reference are before you. Why don't you read it?

PROF. K. K. TEWARY: I would like to know from the Minister whether these names have also been included....

MR. SPEAKER: The question is disallowed.

थी बलिक एम एम. ए. पाटेल: अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके द्वारा मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूँगा कि क्या यह सही है कि जितना सोना बेचा गया, उसका दो-तिहाई हिस्सा फजी नाम की बम्बई की किसी एक पाटी ने खरीदा....

MR. SPEAKER: The committee is there to look into all these aspects.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: May I know whether the necklaces, rings and mangalsutras that were contributed to the gold stock were in the same stock from where the gold was frittered away or were they kept separately? If they were in the same stock, they must also have been sold by the Government.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: There is one stock but three accounts. The stock consists of all the Government gold kept together. There is an account which shows how much gold has come from our mines. There is an account showing how much gold has been received through gold bonds. These are accounts, but the stock is one stock. I said, it has been sold from that stock.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I agree that the stock is one, but the accounts are separately kept—how much gold was received from smugglers, how much from old defence account, how much from the mines, etc. I would like to know whether the amount of gold that was auctioned falls short of the amount of gold that was taken from the smugglers or it is more than the amount of gold taken from the smugglers.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: I will give further details. Out of the stock which they had, they sold it from there. Later they debited this to the account of smuggled gold. Originally, when they sold, they sold it from the stock.

In fact, the proposal which Mr. H. M. Patel brought forward through his Ministry was that the gold would be sold from the stock and then after the sale, he said, it would be debited to the account of smuggled gold.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He has built up a fine case for a privilege motion.

*Not recorded.

Parle Group of Companies

*86. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:
SHRI DHARAM DAS SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report in weekly 'Blitz' dated 26th April, 1980 regarding activities of Parle Group of Companies; and

(b) if so, what follow up action has been taken?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some matters referred to in the report in the 'Blitz' are under investigation by C.B.I. Some others are being looked into by the concerned Departments.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: My question is there on the same subject. And I have written to you to club Q 94 with this question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, will you take Q 94 along with it?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: It will lead to confusion. I do not want to do that.

श्री धर्मवास शास्त्री: अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप के द्वारा मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ-

(क) पाले गुप्त के खिलाफ पहले भी छापे मारे गये थे जिन में एकसाइज डिप्टी की चारों ओर लाखों रुपये के इन्कम टैक्स के घोटाले के मामले सामने आये थे। माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने उस सभय सदन को आश्वासन दिया था कि उन से एकसाइज डिप्टी भी चारों की जायगी और टैक्स भी वसूल किया जायगा—मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस सम्बन्ध में अब तक क्या कार्यवाही है?

(ख) क्या इस तरह के घोटाले करने वाले व्यक्ति, जिस की इन्टीग्रिटी डाउटफुल है और जो सिविलाइज्ड समग्रलर भी है, को मूवमेंट पर कोई वाच रखी गई है? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह व्यक्ति - रमेश

चौहान - कहां है जो इस तरह से घाटा कर रहा है, देश को बेच रहा है और लाखों रुपये की सम्पत्ति दूसरे देशों में जमा कर रहा है?

(ग) मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस व्यक्ति के खिलाफ क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है? इस के साथ फेवरेटिज्म क्यों किया जा रहा है? क्या आप के अधिकारियों पर किसी का दबाव है? पुरानी सरकार पर तो दबाव था, क्योंकि इन का एक डायरेक्टर कान्ति भाई देसाइर था, लेकिन आज कान्ति सा दबाव है, जो उस के खिलाफ कार्यवाही नहीं हो रही है?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The matter is under investigation of the CBI. After the CBI completes its investigation and makes its recommendations, action will be taken. My hon. friend wants to take action even before the CBI enquiry is completed. I would request him to wait till the enquiry is completed.

श्रीधर्मवास शास्त्री: अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने पूछा था कि आज कल रमेश चौहान कहां है? वह एक सिविलाइज्ड समग्रलर है, उस की इन्टीग्रिटी डाउटफुल है, इस लिये उस की मूवमेंट पर वाच होनी चाहिये, चाहे सी. बी. आई. इस मामले में जांच कर रही है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह आजकल कहां है?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir, I do not know where the offenders are. I am a very gentle person!

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Sir, in the last Session, on this question a variety of charges on Parle Group had been levelled. Certain actions by the Finance Ministry had also been reported. During the course of this question, the hon. Minister had admitted that certain charges had been levelled and inquiries had been ordered on certain charges. I would like to ask a pertinent question as to how many of the charges were under CBI inquiry and on what charges a specific investigation had been ordered by the CBI and on other charges levelled and reported in the Blitz widely why action has not been taken.

It was also alleged that Rs. 50 lakhs had been looted and piled up by the Company in Singapore and New York, and Mr. Ramesh Chauhan, Managing Director of Parles, transferred Rs. 5 lakhs officially for starting Parle International in New York, in order to get a Green Card enabling him to intensify his activities in U.S.A. It was also alleged that accounts were manipulated in such a manner that the amount was written off in the books in Italy while retaining the amount in the books here. And I have got credible information that Rs. 3.15 lakhs have been kept in the Swiss account. I would like to know whether these charges have been included for investigation when the CBI inquiry had been ordered by this Ministry.

There were also allegations earlier and the raids were conducted, but I do not know why the charges have not been framed and action has not been taken. I would like to know whether it is also a fact that certain incriminating documents found in that Company have been destroyed by the Director who is working in the Finance Ministry and whether all these things have been included in the charges. I would also like to know at what point of time the CBI action will be completed and prosecution will be launched in respect of those involved in these cases because earlier also there were such charges.

(Interruptions).

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir, the hon. Member has mixed up a number of things.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I have not mixed up.

(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Let him answer.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: In fact I am helping you.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Thank you.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: There are some charges relating to Rs. 3.15

lakhs. There are some charges which the hon. Member has mentioned about Rs. 50 lakhs and odd, on which I have no information. I will send an extract of his observations to the CBI for further investigation.

So far as the action taken is concerned, there are some matters in which action is taken on criminal offences committed. There are certain matters in which departmental action is being taken. I find it rather difficult to give more information at this stage because it will help more the people who are involved in it rather than Parliament or the country. If the hon. Member still insists, I will have to give the information.

SHRI EDURADO FALEIRO: In this very House allegations have been made that Mr. Ramesh Chauhan, Director of Parles, has evaded excise duty of Rs. 2.5 crores and also Rs. 70 to Rs. 80 lakhs of income-tax, but nothing has been done due to the patronage of the former Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai. We know that there is a CBI enquiry, but the allegation which has been made, and specifically made, is that there are enforcement officials who are interested in squashing this entire enquiry. Therefore, will the hon. Minister particularly and specifically reply to my question that he will see that the officials do not interfere?

MR. SPEAKER: What is the question? It is a suggestion.

SHRI EDURADO FALEIRO: Will the hon. Minister look into the question and probe the vital aspect of Parle's connections with Singapore and New York?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The hon. Member has asked me to personally look into the matter. I shall do it. When the report comes, I will look into it personally.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Issue of Licences to Private Cashew Processors for Import of Raw Cashew-nuts

*87. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether some private cashew processors have been issued licences for import of raw cashew nuts from African Countries;

(b) if so, the number and names of processors who were issued licences for import of cashewnuts;

(c) the total quantity of import allowed in each case and how much has been imported so far;

(d) whether the Cashew Corporation of India had been formed with the exclusive responsibility of canalising import of raw nuts; and

(e) if so, what were the reasons that prompted Government to allow private cashew processors to import raw nuts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (e). Under a scheme evolved to July, 1979, eligible manufacturer-exporters could be permitted to import raw cashew from non-traditional sources. Three processing units namely S/Shri Kesav Cashew Company, Sreerama Cashew Ltd., and Shanmukha Vilas Traders have been given permission for import of 1000 tonnes of raw cashew each under this scheme but actual import has not yet materialised.

2. Direct import of 5013 tones of raw cashew by M/s. United Breweries Ltd., Bangalore for processing and re-export has also been permitted and the import has actually materialised.

3. Import of raw cashew continues to be canalised through Cashew Corporation of India. The liberalisations

referred to above were put into effect for augmenting supply of imported raw cashew in the interest of creation of additional employment opportunities and foreign exchange earnings.

Export of Cast Iron Pipes

*88. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHE-KHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exports of cast iron pipes from the country are faced with serious setbacks following the acute shortage of pig iron and cast iron scrap;

(b) if so, whether during 1979-80 the cast iron pipes exports were at the level of Rs. 20 crores only as against the target of Rs. 35 crores;

(c) whether this performance was quite low in comparison to Rs. 27 crores of exports achieved in 1978-79; and

(d) if so, what were the main reasons for the poor performance?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). According to the provisional figures available with the Engineering Export Promotion Council, export of cast iron pipes and sanitary castings during April '79—Jan' 80 amounted to Rs. 13.56 crores as compared to Rs. 21.22 crores during the corresponding period in 1978-79.

(d) Shortage of critical inputs like pig iron, scrap, coal, coke power etc. affected the production of exportable cast iron pipes. In addition, infrastructural difficulties like congestion at the ports, lack of shipping facilities to certain destinations etc., restricted the export of this item.

Loans to Educated Unemployed in West Bengal by United Commercial Bank

*89. SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United Commercial Bank, Calcutta is scuttling the scheme of West Bengal Government to provide loans to educated unemployed youths for starting small scale industries by way of denying them loans; and

(b) reaction of Government thereto and steps taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Increase in Export of Iron Ore

*90. SHRI JAI NARAIN ROAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the iron ore export; and

(b) if so, by how much has the iron ore export gone up in 1979-80?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Exports of iron ore from India during 1979-80 were higher by 3.41 million tonnes over the exports in 1978-79. This works out to 15.89 per cent increase in quantitative terms.

Income Tax Arrears

*91. SHRI P. M. SAYEED:

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KOCHAK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether total income-tax arrears outstanding upto January, 1980 stood at Rs. 708.15 crores;

(b) if so, what were the arrears of income-tax upto 31st January, 1979;

(c) whether the problem of arrears of Income-tax was discussed in detail at the Income-tax Commissioners' Conference held recently;

(d) if so, what decisions were taken to accelerate the pace of collections; and

(e) to what extent the decisions have improved the position?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) No, Sir. Rs. 708.15 crores represented the amount outstanding from the arrear demand carried forward on 31st March 1979. After adding the amount outstanding from the current demand, the total outstanding demand on 31st January 80 stood at Rs. 1017.21 crores.

(b) The total Income-tax demand outstanding on 31st January 79 amounted to Rs. 965.54 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The requisite information is given in the statement.

(e) It is too early for the decisions taken at the Commissioners' Conference to make their impact felt on the reduction of tax arrears.

Statement

The problem of arrears of Income-tax was discussed in detail at the Commissioners' Conference held in May, 1980. The important decisions taken in pursuance of the said Conference are:—

(i) Targets of collection/reduction out of arrear demand have been placed at 55 per cent and out of current demand at 85 per cent;

(ii) The outstanding entries of the demand raised in 1979-80 will be reduced to the extent of 85 per cent;

(iii) A "Tax Arrears and Refunds Clearance Fortnight" will be observed in the second fortnight of January, 1981;

(iv) The Commissioners of Income-tax will request their respective Income-tax Appellate Tribunals and High Courts for out-of-turn hearing of appeals/references involving large uncollected income-tax demands;

(v) Publicity in the newspapers will be given, as was done last year, requesting the assessees to furnish particulars of the pending rectification claims etc. Arrangements are also to be tightened for making use of this information and carrying out the rectifications, etc., expeditiously. A drive would also be launched to adjust payments already made by the tax-payers;

(vi) The arrangements for appointing separate I.T.O.'s in difficult cases of recovery of income-tax arrears will be reviewed and wherever feasible, strengthened;

(vii) In order to avoid high-pitched assessments and consequent accumulation of infructuous tax arrears, the Income-tax Officers will be required to seek guidance under section 144A of the Income-tax Act, 1961, from their Inspecting Asstt. Commissioner of Income-tax before completing an *ex parte* assessment beyond a certain income limit; and

(viii) The appellate machinery should be strengthened to liquidate the heavy pendency of appeals in certain Commissioner's charges.

Proposal to Invite Foreign Investment

*92. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to invite foreign investment, particularly from oil-rich countries, on production-sharing basis

in order to stimulate growth and step up productive investment; and

(b) if so, the details in respect of the areas in which such investment would be utilised and the steps being proposed to be taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b). While Government does not ordinarily invite proposals for foreign investment, the approach is to consider specific proposals received in the light of the policy governing foreign investment. The present policy permits investment by foreign nationals or companies in high technology and export-oriented areas. There is scope for investment by foreign nationals or companies within the frame-work of this policy. Specific proposals on production-sharing or any other basis which conform to be declared as policy guidelines are considered as and when they are submitted to Government for approval.

Development of Airports and Tourist Resorts

*93. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a plan for the development of airports and tourist resorts; and

(b) if so, the amount likely to be spent for this purpose this year and the allocation of the amount to the States?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A sum of Rs. 19.58 crores and Rs. 9.22 crores for the development of airports and tourist resorts respectively has been made in the Annual Plan 1980-81. All these are Central Plan Schemes and no allocation is made to the State Governments.

Payment made by Parle Group of Companies to Swiss Bank

*94. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Parle Group of Companies had paid into a secret Swiss Bank a sum of Rs. 3.15 lacs; and

(b) if so, has any action been taken to both the culprit?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b). On receipt of a complaint from the Directorate of Enforcement, the C.B.I. have registered a case for alleged violation of the provisions of FERA and cheating under I.P.C., against M/s. Bisleri (India) Private Limited and two Directors of the said Company. As the investigations are in progress, it will not be in public interest to disclose further details at this stage.

Income-Tax Commissioner's Office in State Capitals

*95. SHRI NEELALOHITHADASAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any State capital in India where an Income-tax Commissioner's office is not there;

(b) if so, which is that State capital; and

(c) whether Government of India have taken any measures to have Income tax Commissioner's office in such State capitals?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir The offices of the Commissioners of Income-tax are not located at Dispur, Kohima, Imphal, Agartala, Simla, Chandigarh, Srinagar and Trivandrum.

(c) Decision has been taken to shift the headquarters of one of the two Commissioners of Income-tax from Ernakulam to Trivandrum. There is no other proposal to locate offices of the Commissioner of Income-tax in the capitals of the remaining States.

Amount of money lying unclaimed with G.I.C.

*96. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a big amount of money is lying unclaimed with (GIC) General Insurance Corporation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). When the general insurance industry was nationalised an amount of Rs. 38.05 crores was paid by the Central Government as compensation under section 11 of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972. This amount was meant for distribution to the shareholders of the erstwhile Indian insurance companies and to other insurers for transfer of their interests. The General Insurance Corporation of India has so far distributed Rs. 37.32 crores. The balance of Rs 73 lakhs remains undisbursed, either due to litigation, incomplete records or difficulties in tracing out the claimants. A sum of Rs. 58 lakhs is payable to the shareholders of the erstwhile Indian insurance companies and about Rs. 15 lakhs to the erstwhile mutual insurers.

Removal of G.P.F. discrepancies of Central Government Employees

*97. SHRI C. B. M. TIWARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in spite of repeated clear orders,

the G.P.F. discrepancies of Central Government Employees are not being removed even after producing documentary evidence;

(b) if so, the difficulties being faced by the Ministries/Departments in complying with the instructions of Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to ask every Ministry/Department to prepare a list of such employees whose GPF discrepancies are not being removed, indicating the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). Where satisfactory collateral evidence is produced, there has been no difficulty in adjustment of discrepancies. In certain cases, however, where evidence produced was not adequate, enquiries have to be made from the Drawing and Disbursing Officers before adjustment. No difficulties have been brought to the notice of Ministry of Finance by the Controller of Accounts of any Ministry in complying with the instructions issued by the Government in this behalf.

(c) No, Sir. Instructions already exist that if on receipt of the annual statement of G.P.F. account, the subscriber finds that the balance shown at his credit is less than what he has actually subscribed/withdrawn or is otherwise incorrect, he should immediately submit a representation to the Accounts Officer through his Head of Office and the former will then initiate action to locate the discrepancies (both of credits and debits) and adjust them in the subscriber's account in accordance with the prescribed procedure in this behalf.

Nationalisation Processing of Cashew

*98. SHRI V. S. VIJAYA RACHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any demand to nationalise the

processing of export of cashew in order to control the price of cashew;

(b) if so, the reaction thereto;

(c) whether there is an acute shortage of raw cashew felt in the State of Kerala which is the major cashew processing State; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

Cashew industry in the whole of the country has been facing difficulties on account of shortage of raw cashew. Against an estimated installed capacity of 4,50,000 tonnes the total availability of raw cashew from domestic production is about 1,10,000 tonnes. Import through Cashew Corporation of India in the current season may not exceed 8,000 tonnes. In the wake of the decline in the availability of raw cashew for import into India from the traditional East African sources, the need to tap other sources was felt. A scheme was evolved in July, 1979 under which eligible manufacturer-exporters of cashew could be allowed to import raw cashew from non-traditional sources subject to the overall supervision and control of Cashew Corporation of India and surrender of half of the imported raw cashew to Cashew Corporation of India for distribution in accordance with the existing policy.

Direct import of raw cashew has also been permitted on merits for the purpose of processing in India for re-export subject to such conditions as may be stipulated in each case.

Setting up of Regional Rural Banks in West Bengal

*99. **SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to set up regional rural banks in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b). The Government of West Bengal in August 1979 made the following proposals for the establishment of more Regional Rural Banks in addition to the existing four banks which are covering 10 districts:—

(i) Five Regional Rural Banks, one each for the districts of 24-Parganas, Howrah, Burdwan, Hooghly and Nadia.

(ii) The establishment of six more Regional Rural Banks by taking away the six districts, namely, Purulia, Midnapore, West Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, and Murshidabad from the area of jurisdiction of the existing Regional Rural Banks.

2. The matter was considered by the Government and the Reserve Bank of India and it has been decided to set up 3 additional Regional Rural Banks to cover the districts of 24-Parganas, Burdwan and Nadia. Hooghly district is to be brought under the jurisdiction of Mayurakshi Gramin Ban Bank which is at present covering Birbhum district only. Additional data has been called for from the State Government by the Reserve Bank for purposes of establishing a Regional Rural Bank for the only remaining uncovered district of Howrah.

Improvement in runway of Port Blair Airport

*100. **SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the inadequacy of the runway of Port Blair Airport and whether a proposal sent for improvement and increase in the length of existing runway was still pending with the Ministry, if so, the details and reasons for not according sanction; and

(b) whether Government are aware of the demand for having triweekly air service from Calcutta to Port Blair and if so, what action Government contemplate to take?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. In view of the physical limitations of the present site, the question of construction of a new Airport at an alternate site near Port Blair instead of improving the existing airport is under consideration of Government. Meanwhile to provide the maximum facilities possible in the existing airport, an over-run and pipe drain are being provided at a total estimated cost of Rs. 21.56 lakhs. These works are likely to be completed shortly.

(b) Indian Airlines have no plans at present to increase the frequency of air services from Calcutta to Port Blair, however, as and when the traffic justifies increase in frequency, the same will be considered.

बोनस नीति से परिवर्तन :

*101. **श्री छौतू भाई गांधीत :** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताएं कि कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) भारत सरकार के उन विभागों के नाम क्या हैं जहां बोनस दिया जाता है;

(ब) क्या सरकार का विचार बोनस नीति में कुछ परिवर्तन करने का है;

(ग) क्या सरकार को गत कुछ महीनों में रेलवे अथवा रिजर्व बैंक या अन्य सरकारी उपकरणों में बोनस की मांग से संबंधित कुछ समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ा है; और

(घ) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार के कुछ कर्मचारियों ने भी बोनस की मांग की है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री नगन भाई बरोड़) (क) अब तक उत्पादकता से संबंधित बोनस रेलवे तथा डाक व तार बोर्डों के अंतर्गत काम करने वाले कर्मचारियों और आईडीएस फैक्टरियों के सिविलियन कर्मचारियों को स्वीकार किया गया है ।

(ब) जहां तक केन्द्रीय सरकारी कर्मचारियों के लिए बोनस नीति का संबंध है उस नीति में कोई परिवर्तन करने का विचार नहीं है । जहां तक बोनस अदायगी अधिनियम 1965 में संशोधन का संबंध है, श्रम मंत्रालय को विभिन्न सम्भाव प्राप्त हुए हैं ।

(ग) जी, नहीं

(घ) जी हां ।

Restriction on the use of Foreign Brand names

617. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 644 on 14th March, 1980 regarding usage of foreign brand name 'Erasmic' on razor blades and state:

(a) whether Government propose to restrict the use of foreign brand names for internal sales by the multinational companies while granting expansion licences to avoid technical difficulties in the matter of implementation of Government's policy in the matter;

(b) whether Government also propose to keep the licences of those firms whose cases are sub judice pending till the foreign brand name question is decided by the Courts;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) steps proposed to be taken by Government to make the foreign multinationals and other large houses conform to the national policy of not using the foreign brand names?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) According to the present policy the use of foreign brand names is generally not permitted in the case of new articles for sale in the internal market. In the case of existing products too, the use of foreign brand names is being actively discouraged.

(b) and (c). The cases at present pending in courts of law relate to continued use of foreign brand names in respect of existing products. Under the law it is not possible to keep licences of these firms pending..

(d) In the approved conditions of licences/letters of intent, it is stipulated that "the use of foreign brand names will not be permitted for the purpose of internal sales". This condition is being imposed on the letters of intent and industrial licences.

विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार

618. श्री भीलू भाई : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि इस समय देश में विदेशी मुद्रा का कितना भण्डार है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री नगन भाई बरोड़): 6 जून, 1980 को भारत का विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार (सोने और विशेष आहरण अधिकारों के छोड़कर) 4857.90 करोड़ रुपये का था ।

Employment potentialities in nationalised Banks in West Bengal

619. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) details of the employment potentialities during the next three years

in the nationalised banks in West Bengal; district-wise; bank brand-wise;

(b) number of persons employed up-to-date by the nationalised banks in West Bengal; district-wise and bank-wise; and

(c) steps so far being taken to create more employment potentialities in these banks in the State, bank-wise and district-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Information would be collected from the banks to the extent possible and laid on the Table of House.

(b) There are 28 nationalised banks at present. They have a very large number of branches in the State of West Bengal. Collecting information district-wise will be a very time consuming process and it may not be commensurate with the time and effort involved in this exercise. Information bank-wise for the State as a whole would however be collected and laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

(c) As the business grows, banks are opening more and more branches in the hitherto unbanked areas and as a result employment opportunities in the banking industry are increasing.

Opening of new branches of nationalised banks in Himachal Pradesh

620. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has drawn up a plan for opening of the new branches of the nation-

alised banks in the State of Himachal Pradesh for the next three years; and

(b) if so, the names of the places, District-wise for each one of the 12 Districts of Himachal Pradesh in which branches of the banks are proposed to be opened alongwith the names of the banks concerned?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI RAROT): (a) and (b). The current branch licensing policy of the Reserve Bank of India covers the 3 year period 1979-81. It seeks to ensure that the branch expansion efforts of the commercial banks during this period are primarily devoted to the opening of branches at unbanked rural/semi-urban centres in under banked/deficit district so as to ensure at least one bank branch per 20,000 rural/semi-urban population. The population criteria for identification of deficit districts is not, however, being rigidly applied to hilly areas in view of their special geographical features.

So far as Himachal Pradesh is concerned, as at the end of December, 1978, 16 licences/allotments were pending with the banks for opening branches. Two of these have since been implemented. Details in this regard are at Statement I.

Between January 1, 1979 and May 31, 1980 the Reserve Bank has issued/made licences/allotments to banks in respect of 36 centres. Details at Statement II

The Government of Himachal Pradesh has recommended to the Reserve Bank 50 centres in the State for location of bank offices. In respect of 9 of these centres licences are either pending with the banks or branches have already been opened. Allotment of the remaining centres is under consideration of the Reserve Bank of India. Details are set out in Statement III.

Statement

Licences/Allotments pending in Himachal Pradesh as on 31st December, 1978

Name of District	Name of Centre	Classification	Name of the bank holding Licences/Allotments	Present position
Chamba	Pangi	Rural	Union Bank of India	
Kangra	Doroh	Rural	Punjab National Bank	opened on 24-1-1979.
Mandi	Machhial	Rural	Himachal Gramin Bank	
	Salapur	"	"	
	Sunder Nagar	"	"	
	Karsog	"	"	
	Mahdev	"	"	
	Mandi	Semi-Urban	"	
	Ahju	Rural	"	
	Randhara	"	"	
	Leda	"	"	
	Kataula	"	"	
	Barot	"	"	
	Bali Chowk	"	"	
Simla	Simla-Ram Bazar	S/U	United Commercial Bank	
Sirmur	Paonta Sahib	Rural	State Bank of Patiala	Opened on 27-7-79.

Statement II

Licences/Allotments made in Himachal Pradesh from 1-1-1979 to 31-5-1980.

District	Name of Centre	Classification	Name of Bank holding licences/allotments	Present position
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Kangra	Lambgaon	Rural	United Commercial Bank	Opened on 20-3-79
Simla	Kotkhui	Do.	Do.	Opened on 6-7-79.
Chamba	Banikhett	Do.	State Bank of India	..

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Chamba . . .	Choweri (ADB)	Rural	State Bank of India	..
Bilaspur . . .	Linda	Do.	State Bank of Patiala	..
	Colony			
Kangra . . .	Chadiyar	Do.	Himachal Gramin Bank	Opened on 10-12-79
	Chachian	Do.	Do.	Opened on 24-9-79
	Lunj	Do.	Do.	
	Daulatpur	Do.	Do.	..
	Thakurdwara	Do.	Do.	..
	Ranital	Do.	Do.	..
	Chadi	Do.	Do.	..
	Dheera Dun	Do.	Do.	Opened on 8-10-79
	Beerh	Do.	Do.	..
	Chobin	Do.	Do.	..
Bilaspur . . .	Swarghat	Do.	United Commercial Bank	Opened on 3-12-79.
Kinnaur . . .	Kalpa	Do.	Punjab National Bank	..
Kulu . . .	Gadsa	Do.	Himachal Gramin Bank	..
Do.	Samsi	Do.	Do.	Opened on 21-2-80.
Solan . . .	Jubhar	Do.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	Opened on 1-2-80.
Do.	Solan	SU/Banked	State Bank of India	..
Mandi . . .	Seri	Do.	Himachal Gramin Bank	..
Kinnaur . . .	Sungra	Do.	State Bank of India.	..
Simla . . .	Baghi	Do.	United Commercial Bank	..
Mandi . . .	Mohi	Do.	Himachal Gramin Bank	..
Do.	Churag	Do.	Do.	..
	Smaila	Do.	Do.	..
Solan . . .	Parweno	Do.	State Bank of India	..
Kulu . . .	Haripur	Rural	Himachal Gramin Bank	..
	Dobhi	Do.	Do.	..
Kulu . . .	Bhutti	Do.	Do.	..

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Kangra	Alampur	Rural	Himachal Gramin Bank	..
Mandi	Bhambla	Do.	Do.	..
Kulu	Kulu	Do.	United commercial Bank	..
Kangra	Dharamsala	SU/Banked	Do.	..
Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Rural	Do.	..

Statement III

List of Centres recommended by Government of Himachal Pradesh for branch expansion in Himachal Pradesh

Name of District	Name of Block	Name of Centre where bank branch is to be opened
(1)	(2)	(3)
Chamba	Tissa Mehla Mehla Salooni.	Baiigarh Chhatrari Gehra Kiharc
Mandi	Karsog Sundernagar Balh (Tehsil) Sunder nagar } Seraj	Kotlu Bhararu Jai Devi Balichauki (Licence pending with Himachal Gramin Bank)
	Sarkaghat	Bhambla Do.
Solan	Dharampur Kunihar Jagjitnagar Nalagarh Kunihar	Jaunaji Darlaghat Pattamehlog Ramshehr Balera
Kinnaur	Kalpa	Kalpa (Licence pending with Punjab National Bank)
	Kalpa Nichar	Sangla Sungra (Licence pending with State Bank of India)
Lahaul-Spiti	Lahaul Spiti	Jalaman Sumdhru
Hamirpur	Nadaun Hamirpur Bhoranj	Rangas Awahadevi Ladraur

(1)	(2)	(3)
Kulu	Kulu	Gadsa (Licence pending with Himachal Gramin Bank)
	Naggar Banjar Anni	Fojal Sainj Dala
Simla	Theog Mashobra Chopal Rohru Jubbal	Sainj Dral Nerwa Khadrala Mandhol
Kangra	Bhawarna Lambagaon Dehra	Dhira (Himachal Gramin Bank opened office) Chadhiar Do. Khundian
	Bhawarna Lambagaon	Sulha Alampur (Licence pending with Himachal Gramin Bank)
	Nurpur Rait	Bhadwar Chadi 'Licence pending with Himachal Gramin Bank)
Una	Una Amb Dhundla Bangana	Haroli Nehrian Lathyani Chowki Manyar
Bilaspur	Sadar (Bilaspur) Ghumarwin Ghumarwin	Namhol Kuthera Hatwar
Sirmur	Sangrah Pachhad	Naura Narag
	Shillai Nahan Paonta	Rohhat Kaulawala bhood Dhaura Kuan Rampur

**Seizures of smuggled Silver by
Bombay customs authorities**

621. PROF. MADHU DANDA-VATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that on 5th and 6th April, 1980, the Bombay customs Authorities seized 771 bars of smuggled silver from the dhow "Al-Noor";

(b) if so, whether the investigations into this episode of smuggling have been completed; and

(c) if so, what are the findings of the investigations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c). The investigations so far made in this case reveal that the seized silver was intended to be

smuggled to Dubai in the said vessel. Ten Indian nationals who were members of the crew were arrested in connection with the case. Further investigations are in progress.

News-item captioned "Rag Scandal Costing the Industry Dear"

622. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in "Indian Express" New Delhi, dated the 23rd May, 1980 captioned "Rag Scandal costing the industry dear";

(b) if so, his reaction thereto; and

(c) the manner in which he proposes to finally deal with this long-outstanding matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c). The report in the Indian Express is in respect of about 8,500 bales said to contain woollen rags imported in the years 1972-73. Since the goods imported were serviceable garments having wool content of less than 50 per cent they were confiscated as not being covered by the import licences which were for woollen rags. Against the decision of the Collector, the importers filed appeals before the Central Board of Excise and Customs. Meanwhile on a writ petition filed by an importer, the Bombay High Court delivered a judgement in favour of the party. Against this decision of the High Court, the Government filed an appeal to the Division Bench of the same High Court. Pending the appellate decision of the High Court the appeals filed by the importers before the Central Board of Excise & Customs could not be taken up for consideration. However, in order to avoid the deterioration of the goods as also to relieve congestion at Bombay docks, the importers were given an option to withdraw their appeals to the

Board and to clear the goods after mutilation and after executing a bond undertaking to pay the Customs duty, if found leivable on the basis of the decision of the Bombay High Court in the appeal pending before it. On this basis appeals to the Board in 18 cases relating to 2,500 bales were withdrawn out of which in 14 cases relating to 1,500 bales the importers furnished the required bonds and the goods were released after mutilation.

The case in which an appeal was pending before Bombay High Court was ultimately settled on the basis of consent terms, and no decision on merits was given by the Court. Accordingly, the appeals pending before the Board relating to 6,000 bales, where the importers did not take advantage of the option to clear the goods after mutilation and on execution of bonds, are left for decision after due examination of the merits of each case.

On a recent test check of the consignments there was no indication of extensive deterioration as stated in the Press report.

Facilities provided by Nationalised Banks in backward districts of West Bengal

623. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) which district in West Bengal are considered to be backward and what facilities are being provided by the nationalised banks for their development; and

(b) details of the results achieved in these districts during the last three years; year-wise, district-wise and bank-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) 13 districts have been identified as 'industrially backward' in the State of West Bengal. These are listed in the

statement? The special concession offered by the public sector banks in such industrially backward districts is in the form of a concessional rate of interest on term loans of not less than 3 years' tenure and composite term loans not exceeding Rs. 25,000 granted to artisans, craftsmen and village and cottage industries. The interest charged on such loans in the industrially backward districts is 9.5 per cent per annum, as compared to 11 per cent per annum in other districts.

(b) Industrial development of any area is dependent primarily on the

development of infra-structure facilities such as transport, power and communications and of availability of raw materials and accessibility to markets and development of local entrepreneurial talent. The availability and cost of credit support plays only a supportive role in the process of industrial development. However, the available data set out in the Annexure shows that between December 1974 and December 1977, the scheduled commercial banks have extended credit to an increasing number of small scale industries in these industrially backward districts of West Bengal.

Statement

Outstanding Credit of scheduled commercial banks to small scale industries in the industrially backward districts of West Bengal

(Amt. in Rs. 000)

Industrially backward districts in West Bengal	December 1974		December 1977	
	No. of Accounts	Amount outstanding	No. of Accounts	Amount outstanding
Bankura	344	2119	614	3714
Birbhum	185	2973	727	11783
Burdwan	748	67347	2256	52624
Cooch Behar	56	909	492	1850
Darjeeling	296	15130	685	9045
Hooghly	540	29342	1659	68846
Jal Paiguri	125	16313	612	4120
Malda	89	425	321	1716
Midnapur	515	9271	2140	19956
Murshidabad	231	2294	2840	5984
Nadia	910	16136	3649	24304
Purulia	193	1225	601	9671
West Dinajpur	675	2561	689	19851

Advancing of loans by nationalised banks to priority sector in West Bengal

624. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the target set by the nationalised banks to lend 33 per cent of their total advance to the priority sector has been raised to 40 per cent;
- (b) if so, details of the bank branches in West Bengal implemented this target in the State, district-wise and bank branch-wise, up-to-date;
- (c) whether any study made up-to-date in this respect; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). The public sector banks have been advised to raise the share of priority sector advances in their aggregate credit to the level of 40 per cent by 1985. This being an aggregative all-India target, no district-wise/branch-wise targets have been indicated to the banks.

(c) and (d). While no branch-wise/district-wise study of priority sector lending in West Bengal has been undertaken, the aggregate level of priority sector lending in the State indicates the need for the banks to take concerted action for enlarging the flow of credit to these sectors in the State. Accordingly, the banks have been asked to devote special attention and effort to meeting the credit requirements of small borrowers in the priority sectors, particularly of the beneficiaries of the 20-Point Programme. A Standing Working Group under the convenorship of the Reserve Bank of India and having representatives of the State Bank of India, the 3 lead banks in West Bengal and of the State Government, has been set up to oversee the measures being taken by the banks to attain this objective.

Long-term iron ore export deal with Pakistan

625. SHRI CHANDRABHAN ATHARE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a three-member Pakistan delegation visited India in May, 1980 to conclude a long-term iron ore import deal with India; and
- (b) has any agreement in this behalf been signed, and if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A long-term agreement with Pakistan Steel Mills Corporation was concluded on 21st May, 1980 for supply of 1.93 million tonnes of iron ore over a period of 7 years starting from September 1980 upto March, 1987.

Upgradation of Kharagpur city in West Bengal

626. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state reasons for the delay to declare Kharagpur in West Bengal as a B-2 city?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): The population of a city should exceed 4 lakhs according to the 1971 census for its classification as B-2 city for the purpose of grant of House Rent Allowance (HRA) and Compensatory (City) Allowance (CCA) to Central Government employees posted therein. As the population of Kharagpur was only 61,783 according to the 1971 census, it is not eligible for classification as a B-2 city.

The Third Pay Commission had recommended that cases of towns which do not qualify for the grant of CCA according to the population criterion but are abnormally expensive

for certain reasons, may be considered on merits for the grant of C.C.A. The case of Kharagpur was also considered in accordance with this recommendation but it did not qualify for the grant of CCA according to the norms adopted in consultation with the Staff Side in the National Council (Joint Consultative Machinery).

Lead Banks in Districts of West Bengal

627. SHRI SATYA GOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) names of the lead banks in districts of West Bengal, district-wise;

(b) details of the industrial, economical and social surveys made by these lead banks up-to-date; district-wise; and

(c) steps so far taken by these lead banks in these districts; district-wise, on the basis of the surveys made by these lead banks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBAI BAROT): (a) The names of the Lead Banks and Districts allotted to each bank in West Bengal are as under:

<i>Name of the Lead Bank</i>	<i>Name of Districts allotted</i>
Central Bank of India	1. Cooch Behar 2. Darjeeling 3. Jalpaiguri
United Commercial Bank	1. Birbhum 2. Burdwan 3. Howrah 4. Hooghly
United Bank of India	1. Bankura 2. Malda 3. Midnapore 4. Murshidabad 5. Nadia 6. Purulia 7. 24-Parganas (North) 8. 24-Parganas (South) and 9. West Dinajpur.

(b) and (c). Although the lead banks have not carried out any special industrial, economic and social surveys of their lead districts, in the course of preparing District Credit Plans for the period 1980—82, they have assessed the potential for increased credit assistance to various sectors within the overall economic, industrial and social environment of their lead districts. In pursuance of the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India, action plans for 1980 have been prepared and taken up for implementation in all the 16 districts of West Bengal. These plans give a broad indication of the proposed lending programme of the banks under different schemes in the sectors of agriculture, activities allied to agriculture, small scale industries and in the tertiary sectors. These action plans have been allocated in each district among the different participating institutions for implementation.

Decline in Profitability of Banks

628. SHRI MANPHOL SINGH CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the profitability of the banks in India is steadily declining;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBAI BAROT): (a) While the profits of the 22 public sector banks including State Bank of India and its subsidiaries have increased from Rs. 30.71 crores in 1975 to Rs. 38.55 crores in 1978, profits as a percentage of total working funds have shown a slight decline.

(b) The slight decline in the profitability of the banks can be attributed to larger credit being given to the priority sector, undertaking by

the banks of other socio-economic obligations, control exercised by the RBI in prescribing the interest rate structure, and increase in establishment expenses as a result of collective bargaining by unions of employees and officers.

(c) The RBI have been discussing the profitability aspect with the banks. The banks have been advised to control operational cost by exercising maximum economy in overheads and establishment expenses. The banks are also being asked to instil cost consciousness amongst its staff at all levels.

Opening of Janata and Middle Level Hotels

629. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to open more Janata Hotels, similar to the Ashok Yatri Niwas and middle level hotels like Kanishka being opened in the Capital, in other cosmopolitan towns and tourist resorts in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposed hotels indicating the towns where these would be set up; and

(c) how long will it take to complete and commission the proposed hotels mentioned in part (b) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDUL CHANDRAKAR): (a) to (c). The construction of projects at other places similar to Ashok Yatri Niwas will be considered only after Government is satisfied with the operational results over 2-3 years of the Delhi project. As for construction of hotels

like Kanishka at other places, the I.T.D.C. proposes to set up new hotels at Gauhati, Chandigarh, Bombay, Gulmarg, Agra, Bhopal, Goa, Ahmedabad and Puri, subject to availability of funds during the Sixth Five Year Plan period 1978-83.

The above projects will be in addition to the hotel expansion scheme of the I.T.D.C.

The Hotel Corporation of India, a subsidiary of Air-India has a proposal to put up Japanese Style Inns providing amenities of 3-star standard at Kushinagar in U.P. and Rajgir in Bihar to cater to the Buddhist traffic from Japan.

Amount Sanctioned by Nationalised Banks in Burdwan District of West Bengal

630. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) total amount released/sanctioned by the Nationalised Banks during the last three years in Burdwan District of West Bengal for the development of small sectors and other purpose; purpose-wise; and

(b) names of those units and amount?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). Data in the manner asked for is not yielded by the statistical reporting system of the Reserve Bank. Available data regarding sectoral deployment of outstanding credit of scheduled commercial banks to Burdwan District as at the end of December 1974 and December 1977—covering a three year period, in respect of Agriculture, Small Scale Industry, Retail Trade and Services Sector, which can broadly be considered as corresponding to the 'small sector' are set out in the statement.

Statement

Sectoral Deployment of Outstanding Credit of Scheduled Commercial Banks in Burdwan District of West Bengal.

(Rs. in thousands)

S. No.	Items	December 1974	December 1977
	Total Credit	1159229	1529461
	Of which		
1.	Direct Finance to Agriculture	19445	47410
2.	Indirect Finance to Agriculture	1487	4743
3.	Small Scale Industries	67347	52624
4.	Retail Trade	9478	13705
5.	Services	3327	4977

Export Earnings

631. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total export earnings of India in the years 1976-77 to 1979-80; and

(b) what were the values of exports through each of the major Indian Ports in the above years?

(b) Value of Exports Through Major sea ports

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The value of exports (including re-exports) during the last four years is given below:—

Year	Rs. (in crores)
1976-77	5142.25
1977-78	5404.26
1978-79	5726.26
1979-80 (Provisional)	5998.64*

* (Provisional) and subject to upward revision on receipt of supplementary returns.

Major Sea Ports	Rs. (in crores)			
	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80
(Provisional)				
Bombay	1471	1388	1521	1906
Calcutta	762	975	727	634
Madras	394	388	415	404
Cochin	434	556	428	552
Mormugao	150	117	117	179
Paradip	97	71	59	57
Visakhapatnam	196	162	211	181
Kandla	38	44	70	71

Financial Assistance from IDA for Cashewnut Production in Karnataka

632. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Development Association, an affiliate of the World Bank, has promised helping finance cashewnut production in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and interest and other conditions of the agreement in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes, Sir. The International Development Association (IDA), an affiliate of the World Bank, approved the proposal for giving assistance of \$22.0 million (Rs. 18.2 crores) for promoting production of cashewnut in Karnataka and three other States over a period of five years.

(b) The financial assistance from IDA is available to the Government of India interest-free and bears only a service charge of 3/4 of one percent and is repayable over a 50 year period including an initial grace period of ten years.

Out of the credit proceeds, US\$13.7 million (Rs. 11.34 crores) will be on-lent to the Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation (ARDC) on interest rate of 6 per cent for 9 years and 6.5 per cent for the period between 9 and 15 years. The ARDC will use this amount to refinance loans to cashewnut growers in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Orissa through the participating banks. An amount of \$ 7 million (Rs. 5.79 crores) is meant for works and schemes in the four States for promoting cashew plantations through the State Corporations and by subsidy

to the farmers. Of this amount, 70 per cent of the aid disbursed related to the expenditures incurred by the concerned State Governments from out of their own budgetary resources will be passed on to the States according to the standard norms for Central assistance to States. The remaining amount of \$ 1.3 million (Rs. 1.07 crores) will be utilised by the Government of India to finance cashew research and study.

The project would cover 61,000 hectares either by way of new plantations or by improvement of existing plantations. The other conditions include the standard terms of lending by the ARDC to participating banks and participating banks to ultimate borrowers. Some other important conditions are:

(i) Setting up a Coordination Committee comprising the representatives of the Governments of the four Project States, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce, ARDC, ICAR and Cashew Directorate for monitoring and coordinating the implementation of the Project, consolidating Annual Work Programmes and forwarding progress reports to IDA,

(ii) Undertaking of a study for improvement of the organisational structure of the cashew industry,

(iii) Finalising the research programme in consultation with IDA and

(iv) Provision of subsidy to the farmers to be equally shared by the Government of India and the Project States for new cashew plantations. The States of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka would also subsidise about 25 per cent of the cost to farmers undertaking cashew improvement programmes. The quantum of subsidy would, however, be subject to a ceiling of Rs. 900 or 25 per cent of the cost per hectare whichever is less.

Amount Released by Nationalised Banks of Asansol-Durgapur Area for Development of Small Scale Units

633. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOU-DHURY: Will the Minister of FIN-
ANCE be pleased to state the total amount released by the Nationalised banks in the Asansol-Durgapur area for the development of small scale units during the last three years, year-wise and category-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): The present data reporting system does not provide for collection of such area-wise information on distribution of advances of public sector banks. However, the amount of outstanding advances of these banks to small scale industries in West Bengal during the three years period ending June, 79 is given below.

Outstanding advances of public sector banks to small scale industries in West Bengal

As at the end of	No. of Units	Amount Outstanding
(R. Crores)		
Dec. 1976	20345	100.10
Dec. 1977	37511	118.53
Dec. 1978	43591	152.13
June, 1979	46483	174.24

Information is also available for scheduled commercial banks' advances districtwise upto December, 1977. Data in respect of the small scale industry advances of these banks in Burdwan district as at the end of

December, 1974 and December, 1977—covering a three year period—are set out below:

Outstanding advances of Scheduled Commercial Banks to Small Scale Industries in Burdwan District.

	No. of A/cs.	Amount Outstanding
December, 1974	748	672.5
December, 1977	2256	526.2

Policy on Rubber Import

634. SHRI JANARDHANA POO-JARY: Will the Minister of COM-
MERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been urged to review its policy on rubber import; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Representations have been received from organisations of rubber manufacturers for review of the present policy on rubber import. After due consideration of all aspects, it has been decided to maintain status quo.

Delegations sent Abroad

635. SHRI CANDRA PAL SHAILANI: Will the Minister of FIN-
ANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the deputations and delegations sent abroad from 10th January, 1980 to 31st May, 1980;

(b) the names of the Government officials and non-Government persons included in these delegations;

(c) the expenditure incurred on each delegation in foreign exchange and in rupees; and

(d) the purpose of each delegation separately?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

Production of Edible Oils

636. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DAN-DAVATE. Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of edible oils has been reduced during the first quarter of this year (1980);

(b) if so, the details of production thereof during this period; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase the production of this item? **¶¶¶**

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) and (b). While the figures of production during the first quarter of 1980 are not available, it is a fact that during the year 1979-80, the production of Oilseeds had been adversely affected and according to the current assessment, it was likely to be 7-10 per cent lower than the level in the preceding year which was slightly over 9 million tonnes. Correspondingly, there had been a reduction in the production of edible oils also.

(c) In order to increase the indigenous availability of edible oils, the Government have taken a number of steps to increase the production of edible oilseeds. These include the following:

(i) Raising the productivity per hectare both in irrigated and unirrigated areas through rapid spread of improved technology;

(ii) Increasing the irrigated areas under these crops by exploiting the potential under the command of new irrigation projects;

(iii) Increasing the areas under short duration varieties through catch cropping and inter-cropping;

(iv) Strengthening the seed production programme by augmenting the supply of certified seeds;

(v) Stepping up the coverage under plant protection measures over large areas;

(vi) Provision of subsidy on the cost of certified seed and for plant protection measures;

(vii) Intensification of research efforts;

(viii) Extension of area under non-traditional oilseeds like sunflower, soyabean and oil palm.

(ix) Fixation of support prices and making arrangements for the purchase of the produce in case the prices fall below the support price levels.

An action-plan is in the process of implementation, in conjunction with the State Governments, to significantly enhance the production of oilseeds during the current year 1980-81.

Proposal to Liberalise Definition of 'Exports' in FERA

637. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to liberalise the definition of "Export" in the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, (FERA); and

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Publicity of Tourist Spots/Centres

638. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH.
Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the amount of money spent for publicity of the tourist spots in our country;
- (b) names of tourist centres which get much publicity abroad;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the tourist centres of West Bengal are neglected regarding publicity; and
- (d) if so, whether Government propose to take steps to arrange for proper publicity abroad of the centres situated in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDRALAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) The Department of Tourism spent Rs. 168.54 lakhs on publicity and promotion undertaken by its overseas offices throughout the world in 1979-80. Besides this a total of Rs. 77.83 lakhs was spent in India on the publicity production programme of the Department of Tourism. This included production of publicity literature, films, photographs and transparencies, fairs and exhibitions, displays etc.

(b) The Publicity campaigns of the Department of Tourism project India in its totality as a great tourist destination. All tourist centres of importance thus get due publicity.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Sick Public sector Units

639. SHRI D. P. JADEJA:
SHRI AMARSINH V. RATHAWA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the ailing Public Sector Units in the country;
- (b) the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to remove the difficulties?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) The Government has not classified any Public Sector Enterprise as ailing unit. Of the 159 public enterprises reported as running enterprises in the BPE's latest report laid on the Table of the House, 90 public enterprises had made profits or broken even. However, some of the enterprises have been incurring losses. The names of the enterprises incurring losses for more than five years have been listed in the Statement.

(b) Some of these loss making enterprises like Braithwaite and Co., Burn Standard, Biecco Lawrie, National Textile Corporation, Central Inland Water Transport Corporation, Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India Ltd. etc were taken over from private sector and are being gradually nursed back to health. Some of the enterprises like Coal India Ltd., Bharat Gold Mines Ltd., and Delhi Transport Corporation, etc have been incurring losses because of the conscious decision of the Government to peg their prices at certain levels which are not remunerative. Under utilisation of capacity, infrastructural problems, obsolete technology, lack of orders, etc. are some of the other factors responsible for losses in other enterprises mentioned in the list.

(c) The administrative Ministries and the B.P.E. continuously monitor the performance so as to identify causes contributing to losses and to take steps to remove them. The Government have also under consideration appointment of an Expert Committee to take up plant by plant studies of these loss-making units and recommend measures to overcome their problems.

Statement

List of Enterprises which have been Incurring Losses for the Last Five Years.

S. No.	Name of Enterprise
1.	Bh rat Aluminium Co. Ltd.
2.	Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.
3.	Bharat Refractories Ltd.
4.	Fertilizers & Chemicals (T) Ltd.
5.	Fertilizer Corporation of India.
6.	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.
7.	Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels Ltd.
8.	Braithwaite & Co. (India) Ltd.
9.	Burn Standard Ltd.
10.	Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.
11.	Biecco Lawrie Ltd.
12.	Central Inland Water Transport Corporation.
13.	Scooters India Ltd.
14.	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd.
15.	Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Ltd.
16.	Tannery & Footwear Corporation of India Ltd.
17.	Hindustan Prefab Ltd.
18.	Coal India Ltd.
19.	Delhi Transport Corporation
20.	National Textile Corporation.

सरकारी क्षेत्र के उपकरणों में घाटा

640. श्री रीतलाल प्रसाद बर्मा: क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकारी क्षेत्र के उपकरण सामान्यतया घाटे में चल रहे हैं;

(ख) क्या गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र में बिरला और टाटा की बड़ी कम्पनियां प्रति वर्ष मुनाफा कमा रही हैं; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र में विशेषज्ञ कार्य कर रहे हैं जबकि सरकारी क्षेत्र के उपकरणों के प्रबंध में कार्यरत व्यक्ति विशेषज्ञ और कुशल नहीं हैं?

वित्त मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री मणि भाई बरोट): (क) यह सच नहीं है कि सरकारी क्षेत्र के उपकरण सामान्यतः घाटे में चल रहे हैं। 1978-79 के दौरान 159 चालू उद्यमों में से 90 उद्यमों ने लाभ कमाया है या न लाभ न हानि की स्थिति में रहे हैं, जैसाकि सरकारी उद्यम सर्वेक्षण 1978-79 में सूचित किया गया है जिसे दिनांक 12 मार्च, 1980 को सभा-पट्टल पर रख दिया गया है।

(ख) यह सच नहीं है कि गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र की सभी कम्पनियां हर वर्ष लाभ अर्जित करती हैं। उनमें से कई कम्पनियों ने हाल ही में घाटा उठाया है। हाल ही में घाटा उठाने वाली कम्पनियों की विवरणात्मक सूची संलग्न है। इनमें टाटा और बिरला समूह की कम्पनियां भी शामिल हैं।

(ग) प्रश्न ही पैदा नहीं होता।

हाल ही में गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र को घाटा उठाने वाली कम्पनियों की सूची।

1. चौगुले स्टीमशिप्स लि.

2. कोहिनूर मिल्स लि.

3. ई.आई.डी. पेरी

4. विन्नी लि.

5. रोहेतास इण्स्ट्रोज

6. अपोलो टायर्स लि.

7. हिन्दुस्तान कंस्ट्रक्शन कं. लि.
घाटा समूह

8. इण्डियन ट्रेन्स कं. लि.
- विरला समूह
9. बेली जूट कं. लि.
10. नेशनल पाइप्स एण्ड ट्रेन्स कं. लि.
11. नेशनल रोलिंग एण्ड स्टील रोप्स लि.
12. न्यू स्वदेशी मिल्स आफ अहमदाबाद लि.
13. रामेश्वर जूट मिल्स लि.
14. सोमा प्लम्बिंग फिक्सचर्स लि.

Import of Raw Cashewnuts by the Private Traders

641. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the private traders have been allowed to import raw cashew-nuts from abroad;
- (b) if so, what was the norm for the same;
- (c) did the Kerala Government requested for the reversal of this; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of Government over this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to augment the supply of raw cashew, direct import of a limited quantity of raw cashew has been permitted on merits for the purpose of processing in India and re-export subject to such conditions as may be stipulated in each case.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. After careful consideration of the request of Kerala Government, the State Govt. has been informed that the additional availability of raw cashew will improve the employment position, utilisation of processing capacity and result in additional foreign exchange earnings.

Take-over of Management of Public Sector Units by Private Sector

642. SHRI AHMED M. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry said that the Private Sector is ready to take over the management of Public Sector Units which are suffering from managerial deficiencies; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government on the suggestion made by the Federation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to the observations contained in "A Minimum Programme of Economic Action" published by the President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in January 1980. No formal proposal for taking over management of any public sector enterprise has been made to the Government.

(b) In any case, Government have not got under consideration any proposal to hand over the management of the public sector units to any private sector organisation.

Request from Maharashtra Government to take over Sick Textile Units managed by Maharashtra State Textile Corporation

643. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra Government has requested the Central Government to permit the State Government to take over three of the eight sick textile units managed by the Maharashtra State Textile Corporation; if so, when;

(b) what were the points put forth by the State Government to substantiate their demand;

(c) what decision the Central Government have taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, when a decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d). Government of India have received a request from Government of Maharashtra for nationalisation of 3 mills viz. Pulgaon Cotton Mills, Western India Spg. and Mfg. Co. and Vijay Manufacturing Co. in favour off State Government. The Government of Maharashtra have urged nationalisation of these mills on the ground that substantial investments have been made by the State Government/Maharashtra State Textile Corp. for restarting these units and nursing them back to health after their take over. They also stated that if the ownership of the unit were to change at this stage, it will affect the modernisation programmes undertaken by State Govt. and will create avoidable uncertainty about the security of funds invested and the future of the undertaking.

The proposal of the Government of Maharashtra is being considered in the context of overall policy on take over and nationalisation of sick textile units.

Janata Hotels in Orissa State

644. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to build more Janata hotels in the State of Orissa; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b). There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government. However, the whole policy relating to the setting up of such type of hotels is under consideration of Government.

Credit expansion of Scheduled Banks

645. SHRI NARAYAN CHOURBAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a runaway credit expansion over the past six and a half months despite RBI's guidelines of keeping credit expansion within last years' limit;

(b) if so, comparing facts thereof, what is the Government's reaction to the Schedule Banks' behaviour in this regard;

(c) whether it is not a fact that this credit expansion has helped the industrial units to make a trading profit; and

(d) whether lending to priority sectors has shown any increase during the same period the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank have reported that the increase in the total net bank credit during the period November 16, 1979 to May 23, 1980 has been markedly lower at Rs. 1424 crores (7 per cent) as compared to the expansion of Rs. 1862 crores (11.1 per cent) in the comparable period a year ago.

(c) The banks have been advised to strictly restrict their advances to traders as well as manufacturers utilising stocks of sensitive and scarce commodities so as to prevent hoarding and profiteering.

(d) Information regarding credit to priority sectors is available upto end-March, 1980. During the 5 months'

period ending March, 1980, the priority sector advances of the scheduled commercial banks are reported to have increased by Rs. 673 crores comprising Rs. 265 crores to the agricultural sector, Rs. 265 crores to small scale sector and Rs. 143 crores to the other priority sectors.

Peerless Insurance and Investment Company Limited

646. SHRI DAYA RAM SHAKYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Peerless Insurance and Investment Company Limited has deposited 80 per cent of its liabilities with the nationalised banks/Reserve Bank;

(b) total number of policies which have been taken by the individuals from this company;

(c) whether Government are watching the interests of this vast number of people and whether the money deposited by these people is secure; and

(d) what control are Government having on this Company?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) The Reserve Bank has reported that there is no company named Peerless Insurance and Investment Company Ltd. The Hon'ble Member presumably has in mind the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Ltd. As per published balance sheet of this company, as on 31st December, 1978, its investments in Government securities, Unit Trust and fixed deposits with Nationalised Banks amounted to Rs. 44.45. crores, as against its disclosed liabilities of Rs. 42.08 crores. Figures for 1979 are not yet available.

(b) Total number of certificates taken by individuals from the company is reported to be approximately 49.12 lakhs as on 31st March, 1980.

(c) and (d). The deposits accepted by the company are unsecured and the depositors stand pari-passu with other unsecured creditors. Before the enactment of the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act, 1978, the deposit acceptances activities of the Financial and Miscellaneous Non-Banking Companies were regulated by the Directions issued by the Reserve Bank. The Directions, inter-alia, provide for aggregate limit on deposits that a company can accept and the manner in which advertisements soliciting deposits are to be issued. While the Reserve Bank can take action against such companies for violation of its Directions, neither the Government nor the Reserve Bank is statutorily empowered to compel defaulting Companies to repay the deposits and/or to pay interest thereon. Acceptance of deposits is a contract between the depositor and the concerned company and in case of breach of contract redress can be sought in a Court of Law.

With the enactment of the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act, 1978, the State Governments were vested with the authority to administer the provisions of the Act. Under the provisions of the Act, promoters of prize chits companies are allowed time not exceeding two years for winding up their existing schemes. For this purpose, the promoters have to submit statements of particulars and winding up plans for approval by the concerned State Government. In pursuance of the Act and Rules framed there under, the Government of West Bengal served a notice on the company on 10th September, 1979 to submit its winding up programme. The company contended that its business was not covered by the Act and filed a writ petition in the Calcutta High Court against the Union Government, State Government and the Reserve Bank of India and obtained a stay order. The case is still sub-judice.

Third Level Air Service in North Eastern Region

647. SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to introduce Third Level Air Services in the North-Eastern Region; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government will include Tura, the District Headquarters of West Garo Hills in the proposed net work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDLAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) The proposal to introduce Third Level Air Services in North-Eastern and other Regions is under consideration of the Government.

(b) There is no proposal at present to include Tura in the proposed Third Level Air Services net-work.

Reduction in Premium Rates of LIC

648. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that LIC has claimed that premium rates have been reduced by 8 to 23 per cent;

(b) whether it is a fact that the LIC Agents Federation has contradicted this and has claimed that in fact in some cases the premium rates have been raised by 4.5 percent;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some policies have been withdrawn which were of help to the policy holders; and

(d) if so, the facts of this matter and whether Government accept the contentions in part (b) and (c) above?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (d). The following is the order of reduction/increase in premium rates of the LIC on revision of the premium rates structure with effect from 1st April, 1980:—

Plan	Reduction	Increase
<i>Without Profit</i>		
(i) Whole Life and Whole-Life Limited Payment	8% to 31%	..
(ii) Endowment	9% to 17%	..
<i>With Profit</i>		
(i) Whole Life and Whole-Life Limited Payment	Upto 23%	..
(ii) Endowment	Upto 5%	..
(iii) Money Back . . . . .	..	Upto 5.8%

The LIC also took the opportunity of this review to discontinue certain plans. The Gribalaxmi Policy and Centenary Policy were discontinued

in view of their very limited sale and the Anticipated Endowment Policy was discontinued to eliminate duplication with the Money Back Plan.

Port based Steel Plant at Paradeep

649. SHRI SURYANARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for setting up a port based steel plant at Paradeep; and

(b) if so, the details of the plant?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). As part of the overall development programme for the enhancement of capacity in the steel industry, Government have been considering the possibilities of setting up a new port based steel plant with ultimate capacity of 3.0 million tonnes per annum. Paradeep is also being considered as a possible site in this connection. As a result of discussions held with foreign parties who have offered technical and financial assistance for this purpose, two concrete proposals have been received which are being examined.

Writing off loans taken by small and Marginal Farmers of Tripura

650. SHRI AJOY BISWAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any decision of Government for writing off the loans taken by the small and marginal farmers of Tripura from different nationalised banks;

(b) whether the State Government of Tripura has taken up the issue with the Central Government; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by the Central Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (c). No, Sir. It is not the policy

in the commercial banks to write off loans or waive interest on advances as it adversely affects their profitability and is against the interest of their depositors. However, a scheme has been evolved by Government for the waiver of interest liability of small/marginal farmers and agricultural labourers of Kharif loans in 1979 in areas where crop loss due to drought has been more than 50 per cent. The expenditure incurred by Banks for this purpose will be reimbursed by the State and Central Governments.

Banks also grant extension of repayment period/convert short term loans into medium-term loans in case the repaying capacity of borrowers is adversely affected due to natural calamities like floods, droughts etc.

The Government received a proposal from the State Government in February 1980 regarding the write off of Cooperative loans outstanding against the unwilful defaulters. There is no Scheme in Government of India providing for write off of the loans issued by Cooperatives to their borrower members for agricultural operations.

I.A. and A.I. remained without Boards of Directors

651. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how long exactly (date-wise) the Indian Airlines and Air India remained without Boards of Directors after February, 1980, expiry of old Boards;

(b) what were the reasons for such extraordinary delay;

(c) what is the experience of newly appointed Chairman of Air India, in the field of airlines business; similarly under which circumstances newly appointed Chairman Mr. A. M.

Mehta in Indian Airlines had retired from Indian Airlines three years ago; and

(d) what are the standards adopted for appointment of Members to these Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) Indian Airlines and Air-India were never without Boards of Directors during the period in question.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The newly appointed Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Air-India has a great deal of experience in the field of management including financial administration. The present Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Indian Airlines would have normally superannuated in 1976 but finally retired on 11-6-77 after an extension.

(d) The Air Corporations Act, 1953 does not prescribe any criteria in regard to the appointment of Members on the Boards of Directors of the two Corporations. Government, however, takes into consideration several aspects including experience and suitability before deciding on the inclusion of a particular Member on the Board of Air-India and/or Indian Airlines.

Theft of consignments of drugs and Chemicals belonging to STC

652. SHRI ; SATISH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consignments of drugs and chemicals belonging to STC were stolen by dock thieves recently;

(b) if so, full details of the consignments so stolen and the estimated loss thereof; and

(c) remedial measures proposed to be taken to avoid recurrence of such losses?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Sometimes pilferages of drugs imported by State Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Corporation of India Ltd. (CPC), a subsidiary of STC, have taken place while in Port Trust warehouses in docks area under clearance as stated under:

	QTY, (MT)
—Vit B6	3.520
—Chloroamphenicol Palmitate . .	0.250
—Tetracycline Hcl/Base . . .	4.700
—Calcium D. Pantothenate . .	0.110
Sulphamethaxazole . . .	4.750
Streptomycine Sulphate. .	1.250

The above quantities have been valued at a total of approximately Rs. 44.14 lakhs. All imported consignments are insured against various risks, including theft in transit. The Corporation will recover the amount of such losses from the Insurance Companies.

(c) The Corporation has initiated various preventive measures to minimise such losses. Police Authorities have been requested to strengthen their vigilance and keep a close watch, particularly on high value short supply bulk drugs while these are in docks area under clearance. As far as possible, suppliers are being advised to send drug consignments in containers to minimise thefts. Port authorities have been advised to permit containerised import consignments to be cleared for destuffing at CPC's own warehouses and to keep the material in lock fasts while under clearance in the docks area. Procedure for selection and appointment

of clearing agents have been strengthened to ensure appointment of reliable clearing agents. STC's port officers responsible for clearance of import consignments have been advised to ensure speedier clearance to minimise the period during which the consignments have to be kept in the docks area.

Rise in the prices of essential commodities

653. SHRI JHARKANDE RAI:
 SHRI HARINATH MISRA:
 SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:
 DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH:
 SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:
 SHRI ARJUN SETHI:
 SHRI R. P. YADAV:
 SHRI D. P. JADEJA:
 SHRI C. CHINNASAMY:
 SHRI S. R. A; SAPPALA-NAIDU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of the essential commodities in the markets have been increasing unabatedly during the last few months; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and what measures are being taken by Government to arrest the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) and (b). During the last few months the whole price indices of some essential commodities have gone up, whilst that of others have remained steady or have declined. The wholesale price indices of selected commodities for the weeks ending 12-1-1980 and 24-5-1980 are given in statement.

A number of measures have been taken by Government in last six months to improve the situation. The monthly releases of cereals from the Central pool, free-sale sugar and imported edible oils for sale through

the public distribution system have been stepped up substantially. Import of edible oils is being continued and it has been decided to import a limited quantity of sugar. Forward trading in gur has been suspended and margins on bank advances against gur and khandsari have been raised. There has been a significant increase in the number of fair price shops, particularly in the drought affected States. The export of goat and sheep meat has been banned. The supply of kerosene to States has been raised. Several measures have been taken to improve the movement of essential commodities by Railways.

The provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the orders issued thereunder as well as the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 are being enforced by the States.

Statement

Wholesale Price Indices of selected Essential Commodities.

(Base : 1970-71-100)

Commodity	Index Numbers	
	12-1-1980	24-5-1980
1.	2	3
Rice	191.9	197.6
Wheat	170.0	163.8
Jowar	179.9	177.7
Bajara	188.5	195.6
Maize	193.8	208.4
Ragi	154.8	155.2
Gram	239.9	278.3
Arhar	236.7	224.9
Moong	307.9	334.2
Masoor	227.1	291.1
Urad	226.4	235.8

	1	2	3
Potatoes	.	88.7	195.9
Onions	.	621.5	136.5
Milk	.	163.7	178.4
Eggs	.	181.0	120.2
Fish	.	259.3	271.5
Meat	.	293.2	311.8
Chillies	.	121.2	114.0
Turmeric	.	132.5	96.0
Tea	.	245.0	236.9
Coffee	.	132.0	123.7
Kerosene	.	272.8	272.8
Biscuits	.	174.2	183.3
Bread	.	160.0	160.3
Sugar	.	190.8	209.9
Gur	.	276.0	382.9
Khandsari	.	251.4	334.0
Vanaspati	.	198.8	206.6
Groundnut Oil	.	189.5	200.9
Mustard Oil	.	209.4	206.3
Coconut oil	.	188.4	201.2
Gingelly oil	.	108.5	203.1
Kardi oil	.	212.3	206.1
Cotton seed oil	.	167.7	185.9
Cotton Cloth (Mills)	.	199.3	202.5
Khadi cloth	.	160.0	150.2
Paper	.	240.7	240.7
Footwear	.	235.3	253.7
Tyres	.	221.8	227.3
Tubes	.	254.0	254.2
Rubber and Plastic shoes	.	150.2	158.4
Caustic Soda	.	330.4	362.0
Soda Ash	.	296.8	296.8

	1	2	3
Soap	.	213.5	229.4
Synthetic Detergents	.	552.5	571.1
Drugs and Medicines	.	125.2	125.7
Tooth Powder	.	222.2	222.2
Tooth Paste	.	171.8	171.8
Matches	.	125.8	122.6
Cement	.	234.1	223.4
Dry Cells	.	184.4	183.6
Razor Blades	.	119.9	118.9
Salt	.	267.4	223.7
Hurricane Linters	.	161.6	161.8
Bidi	.	195.8	195.6
Cigarettes	.	211.9	215.6
Cycles	.	182.5	184.5

Import of Aircraft for Private Parties

654. SHRI AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether plans are under preparation by his Ministry to allow import of aircraft for private parties to run third level air services, executive aircraft for use by big business houses and small 6 seater for private air-taxi services;

(b) if so, what advantages Government expect to have by introducing this; and

(c) whether Air India and Indian Airlines will lose heavily in their earnings, and if so, considerations for introducing private air-taxi services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) These issues are under consideration of

Government, and a decision will be taken shortly.

(b) Third Level Air Services and Air-Taxi Services would help in developing a feeling of national identity and integration in communities situated in remote areas; enhance the mobility of foreign tourists visiting the country, and in the process of economic development, etc.

(c) No, Sir.

Wealth Tax and Income Tax Assessee in Pali District (Rajasthan)

655. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of persons who are assessed to wealth tax during the last three years in the District of Pali (Rajasthan);

(b) the total value of their assets declared for this purpose and the amount of wealth tax levied on them;

(c) the names of the Income tax assessees of Pali District who are in arrears more than Rs. 100,000 towards income tax or other central taxes ending 31st March, 1980; and

(d) the amount of total arrears and the period during which it is due in case of those assessee who owe more than Rs. 1 lakh as Income-tax arrears and the steps taken for the recovery of these arrears?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). A statement showing names of 470 persons assessed to wealth tax in the District of Pali (Rajasthan) during the last three years i.e., 1977-78, 1978-79 and 1979-80 is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-882/80]. The information regarding the total value of their assets declared and the

amount of wealth-tax levied thereon is not readily available. The collection of this information would involve considerable time and labour. However, out of the above 470 persons, no person had either returned or had been assessed on a net wealth of the total value of more than Rs. 5 lakhs in respect of any of the three assessment years 1977-78, 1978-79 or 1979-80.

(c) and (d). There was no assessee of Pali District from whom taxes of more than Rs. 1 lakh were in arrears as on 31-3-80. However, there was one assessee, M/s. Venktesh Enterprises, Pali against whom gross income tax demand of Rs. 1,48,180 had been raised before 31-3-80. This demand became due for payment on 5-5-80. As the assessment has been completed only as a protective measure, the recovery of this demand has not been enforced even after the expiry of the due date.

Advances made by Banks to Neglected Sector in West Bengal

656. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the advances made by the banks to the neglected sector in West Bengal is only 20 per cent of their total advances against the National average of 33 per cent;

(b) if so, reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) steps taken by Government to raise the percentage of advances to the neglected sector?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Provisional estimates relating to end December 1979 show that priority sector advances of public sector banks in West Bengal accounted for 22.4 per

cent of aggregate credit in that State as compared to the all-India average ratio of 34.1 per cent.

(b) & (c): The need for a more vigorous effort on the part of the banks to step up their lendings to the priority sectors, particularly in the rural and semi-urban areas of West Bengal is recognised. The banks have been asked to devote special attention and effort to increase the flow of credit to priority sectors, particularly to the beneficiaries of the 20-Point Programme. A Standing Working Group comprising representatives of the Reserve Bank, the State Bank of India, the three banks having lead responsibility in West Bengal and the State Government, has been set up to oversee the measures being taken by all the banks in West Bengal to achieve this objective.

Tax Collections

657. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tax collections in 1979-80 showed a shortfall; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) & (b). Collections of Income-tax (including Corporation Tax), Wealth Tax, Estate Duty and Gift Tax for the year 1979-80 were higher than the collections during 1978-79. However, the collection of Income-tax (Rs. 2702.92) for 1979-80 was lower than sanctioned Budget Estimate (Rs. 2776.60) for that year. The main reasons for the shortfall are as follows:—

(i) The business conditions during the year were poor because of the extremely difficult situation on power front and unprecedented drought; and

(ii) Slower growth in industrial production in certain key sectors of the industry.

The final figures of actual collections for the year 1979-80 in respect of Union Excise and Customs duties are still not available. However, in the case of Union Excise duties (including cesses administered by the Central Board of Excise and Customs and other Departments), the revised Budget Estimate for 1979-80, which is expected to be realised, is higher than the collections during the year 1978-79, though there is a shortfall with reference to the Budget Estimate of Rs. 6008.00 crores for 1979-80. The shortfall in revenue from Union Excise duties as compared to the Budget Estimates is mainly due to (a) withdrawal of duty on Coal with effect from 18.7.1979 and (b) reduction in duty on certain Petroleum products on 17.8.1979 and again on 10.9.1979.

The revised Budget Estimate for Customs duties for the year 1979-80 is Rs. 2814 crores as against the actual collection of Rs. 2423.51 crores for the year 1978-79.

Fighting Inflation

658. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to work out a package of measures to fight increasing rate of inflation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) & (b). Government attaches top priority to controlling inflation. Its anti-inflationary strategy consists of: strengthening the Public Distribution System, augmenting domestic availability through imports of commodities in

short supply, curbing anti-social activities and restraining undue expansion in money supply and bank credit. A number of measures have already been taken within the framework of the strategy outlined above. Further measures would be spelt out at the time of presentation of the regular Budget for 1980-81 and thereafter in the light of emerging trends.

सोने की नीलामी के लिए प्रक्रिया/नियम

659. श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पांडे :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :-

(क) क्या 1977-79 में उन्नत शासन के दौरान सोने की नीलामी के लिए सरकार द्वारा काछ प्रक्रिया तथा नियम निर्धारित किए गए थे ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी व्यारा क्या है ;

(ग) व्या उक्त सोने की नीलामी के सम्बन्ध में इन नियमों का पालन किया गया था, और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री भगवनभाई बरोट) (क) तथा (ख). जी, हां। सरकार ने 1978 में सोने की नीलामी के सम्बन्ध में मार्गदर्शी सिद्धान्त जारी किये थे, जिनमें अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ निम्नलिखित व्यवस्थायें भी थी :--

(1) बोली देने की अर्हता ;

(2) बोली देने तथा उसे स्वीकार करने के लिए सोने की न्यूनतम तथा अधिकतम मात्रा ;

(3) प्राप्त टेंडरों को खोलने और उनकी जांच करने, आरक्षित कोमत निर्धारित करने, लोलियों और स्वीकार करने, आदि के लिए टेंडर समिति का गठन ;

(4) मार्गदर्शी सिद्धान्तों की समय-समय पर समीक्षा करना जिससे सुधारात्मक

उपाय, आदि अपनाना सुविधाजनक हो सके।

(ग) तथा (घ). सरकार ने भारतीय रिंजिं बैंक के भूतपूर्व गवर्नर श्री के. आर. पुरी को इन मामलों की जांच करने के लिए नियुक्त किया है।

Cut in Quota of semi-Finished Leather Exports

660. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether there is any proposal to enforce a further cut in the quota of semi-finished leather exports; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRA-NAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). One important objective of export policy in the leather sector is to secure higher foreign exchange realisation through export of value-added items. Besides it is also necessary to ensure availability of raw material for the installed finishing capacity in the country. In the light of these considerations, exports of semi-processed hides and skins are allowed subject to quotas which are progressively reduced from year to year.

राष्ट्रीय खनिज विकास निगम द्वारा लोह अयस्क का पता लगाया जाना

661. श्री निहाल सिंह :

क्या इस्थात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि.

(क) क्या राष्ट्रीय खनिज विकास निगम ने विशालाप्ततनम इस्पात की परियोजना को सम्प्लाई किये जाने वाले लोह अयस्क के स्थानों का पता लगाने के लिए व्यापक खोज कार्य द्वारम्ब किया है, और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उपरोक्त खोज कार्य के परिणामस्वरूप कितने लोह अयस्क विक्षेपणों का

पता चला है तथा उस पर कितना व्यव होते की सम्भावना है?

वाणिज्य तथा इस्पात और खान मंत्री (श्री प्रणब मुखर्जी): (क) और (ल). राष्ट्रीय खनिज विकास निगम के विचार में निर्यात के वर्तमान दायदां के देखते हुए विशाखापत्तनम इस्पात परियोजना की लाइंग अयस्क की आवश्यकता की पूर्ति बैलाडिला क्षेत्र की वर्तमान खानों से की जाएगी। यदि किसी समय राष्ट्रीय खनिज विकास निगम के निर्यात दायदां में वृद्धि हो जाती है तो उनका विचार है कि बैलाडिला क्षेत्र में एक नई खान का विकास कर लिया जाएगा, जिसका समन्वेषण कार्य आरम्भ किया जा सकता है और परिणामों की प्रतीक्षा की जा रही है। वर्तमान अनुमानों के अनुसार नई खान की खोज पर लगभग 135 लाख रुपये खर्च होने का अनुमान है।

Production of Pig Iron in Steel Plants at Bhilai, Durgapur and Bokaro

662. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the present production of pig iron steel in Steel Plants of Bhilai, Durgapur, Bokaro and the unit of the Indian Iron and Steel Company;

(b) whether the production of pig iron in these sectors is proposed to be increased; and

(c) if so, how much and by what time?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Production of pig iron in Bhilai, Durgapur and Bokaro Steel plants and Indian

Iron and Steel Company during April and May 1980 was as follows:—

('000 tonnes)

Plants	Production	
	April, 1980	May, 1980
Bhilai.	52.6	47.6
Durgapur.	8.2	17.8
Bokaro.	44.7	69.1
IISCO.	12.0	87.7
Total.	117.5	125.2

(b) and (c). It is planned to produce about 1.4 million tonnes pig iron during 1980-81, which would be approximately 43 per cent higher than the production in 1979-80.

बिट्टेन के साथ आर्थिक और आंशोर्गिक सहयोग के बारे में मंत्री स्तर पर बातचीत

663. श्री नन्द किशोर शर्मा : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बिट्टेन सरकार ने आर्थिक और आंशोर्गिक सहयोग के बारे में मंत्री स्तर पर बातचीत करने का सम्भाव दिया है;

(ल) यदि हाँ, तो उसकी रूपरेखा क्या है और क्या जून में बिट्टेन जाने का उनका कोई कार्यक्रम है और यदि हाँ, तो वहाँ बातचीत के मूददे क्या होंगे?

वाणिज्य तथा इस्पात व खान मंत्री (श्री प्रणब मुखर्जी): (क) तथा (ल). बिट्टेन सरकार के व्यापार दिभाग में स्थायी सचिव श्री केनीथ क्लूकस ने हाल ही में अपनी भारत यात्रा के दौरान वाणिज्य मंत्री को, भारत और बिट्टेन के बीच आर्थिक तथा आंशोर्गिक सहयोग के बारे में बातचीत करने के लिये जहाँ तक हो सके इस वर्ष जून के पहले पक्षवाहँ में बिट्टेन आने का निमंत्रण दिया। निमंत्रण को स्वीकार कर लिया गया था लेकिन यह यात्रा जून, 1980 में संभव नहीं हो सकेगी।

Recommendations of B. Sivaraman Committee

664. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations of B. Sivaraman Committee which studied institutional arrangements for rural credit; and

(b) the action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) The Committee had submitted an Interim Report on the subject of national level arrangements for institutional credit for agriculture and rural development, recommending therein that a National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development may be set up.

(b) Government have agreed in principle to set up the said Bank. Details of the proposal are being worked out.

Promotion of India's Textile Exports to U.S.A.

665. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is facing a serious threat in textile exports to U.S.A.; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken by Government to promote India's market in U.S.A.?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The notification of the U.S. Department of Commerce announcing that a countervailing duty investigation is to be started against textile exports from India to U.S.A. does pose some threat to Indian textile exports to U.S.A. Government of India have initiated suitable steps to counter this move.

Policy in regard to Import of Cashew

666. SHRI K. KUNHANBU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some private cashew processors have been allowed to import of raw nuts from abroad;

(b) if so, the total quantity;

(c) whether the entire quality thus imported will be processed by the same private parties;

(d) whether it is a fact that many cashew factories in Kerala have been closed due to shortage of raw nuts;

(e) whether there is any change in the policy of the Government in regard to import of cashew nuts; and

(f) if not, the steps taken to relieve the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Three cashew processing units had applied for permission for import of 1,000 tonnes of raw cashew each from Nigeria and after screening the proposal, Cashew Corporation of India has granted the permission sought for. The scheme envisages surrender of 50 per cent of the raw cashew thus imported to Cashew Corporation and the remaining quantity is to be processed by the units which arrange the import.

(d) Due to shortage of raw cashew-nuts processing units in the country are able to operate only for a part of the year.

(e) and (f). Import of raw cashew continues to be canalised through Cashew Corporation of India. Under a scheme introduced in July 1979, direct import by manufacturer-exporters under the overall supervision and central of Cashew Corporation of India.

is permitted. Limited import on merits for processing and re-export subject to such conditions as may be stipulated in each case is also being allowed to augment the supply of imported raw cashew.

Central Assistance for Dearness Allowance to State Government Employees in Tripura

667. SHRI BAJU BANRIYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tripura has approached the Central Government for money to sanction the central rates of dearness allowance to the State Government employees in Tripura:

(b) are Government aware of the fact that the State Government has no financial resources to sanction the Central rates of dearness allowance to the State employees; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to come forward to remove the disparity in dearness allowance between the Central Government employees and State Government employees and sanction more money to Tripura Government for this purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) The Government of Tripura requested the Government of India in March, 1979 for financial assistance for paying dearness allowance to its employees at the rates applicable to the employees of the Central Government.

(b) and (c). The Central Government is aware of the constraint on the resources of the Government of Tripura. The policy of the Central Government, however, has consistently been that it is for the State Governments themselves to take a decision on dearness allowance payable to their employees having due regard to their resources position, the requirements

for developmental outlays and other relevant factors. No Central assistance is given to State Governments for this purpose. The matter was also examined by the 7th Finance Commission. The Commission has observed that it cannot suggest as an absolute principle, that there should be parity between the emoluments paid to the State and the Central employees. It has further observed that the obvious reason is that the States, as autonomous bodies, have to determine matters relating to emoluments of their employees in accordance with the circumstances prevailing in each State, e.g. its financial position, costs of living and the comparative position of employees in the neighbouring States as also the resource situation, demands on the resources for the development plans and the needs of maintaining harmonious relations with the employees. The policy of the Government of India conforms to the observations of the 7th Finance Commission.

Upgradation of Amritsar, Patna and Trivandrum Airports

668. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been urged to upgrade the airports at Amritsar, Patna and Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b). While some requests from the State Governments as well as private organisations have been received for upgradation of Amritsar and Trivandrum airports for international flights, no such request in respect of Patna has been received.

At present, some international flights are operated from Trivandrum and

Amritsar Trivandrum airport is being developed for such flights on regular basis. The question of development of Amritsar airport for starting international flights with Boeing 747 is receiving Government's active consideration.

Vacant posts of Liaison Officers of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras of Weights and Measures

669. SHRI C. CHINNASAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the posts of Liaison officers of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras of Directorate of Weights and Measures are lying vacant for a couple of years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Bombay Office of Weights and Measures is manned by an LDC for over two years; and

(c) if so, when the posts are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) to (c). The posts of Liaison Officers at Calcutta and Madras are not vacant. The post of Liaison Officer at Bombay fell vacant on 1st May 1979 consequent upon the retirement of its previous incumbent on superannuation. Arrangement had been made to look after the Liaison Office there by posting a Senior Investigator who continued there till October, 1979. The Assistant Secretary, Forward Markets Commission, Bombay has been authorised to perform the administrative functions of the Bombay Liaison Office. Steps for election of a suitable candidate for the post of Liaison Officer at Bombay are underway.

Attempt to Hijack Bombay-bound I.A. Airbus

670. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the security staff at Delhi Airport thwart-

ed an attempt by a University student, Rakesh Singhal to hijack a Bombay-bound Indian Airlines airbus on 9th April, 1980; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDU LAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b). On April 8, 1980, during the security check at Delhi Airport of the passengers-travelling from Delhi to Bombay, one Shri Rakesh Singhal, aged about 20 years, and resident of Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh), was found carrying a country made revolver with three live cartridges and one fired cartridge concealed in a knee cap at the back of his knee. Shri Singhal was arrested, and a case under FIR No. 40 dated 9th April 1980 under Section 25/27/54/59 Arms Act and 393/365/511 IPC was registered at Delhi Airport Police Station. The investigations revealed that he wanted to hijack the plane only out of frustration in his personal life, and drew inspiration from reports of hijacking in newspapers. He is presently on bail.

Revision of the Stainless Steel Import Policy

671. SHRI AMARSINH V. RATHAWA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to revise the stainless steel import policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

New Export Policy

672. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision with regard to the formulation of a new export policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The new Export Policy for April, 1980—March, 1981, has been announced on 1st April, 1980, and Export Policy book was released to public on 15th April, 1980. The Policy book has already been made available in the Parliament Library.

Proposal to curb evils of black money and tax evasion

673. SHRI R. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to curb the evils of black money and tax evasion which have reached alarming proportions; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps being proposed to be taken to achieve the objective?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). The Government propose to curb tax evasion and black-money through more effective implementation of tax laws. Some other measures are also under Government's consideration the details of which cannot be divulged at this stage.

बेरोजगार पायलटों द्वारा हड्डताल

674. श्री फूलचन्द बर्मा : क्या पर्यटन और नगर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या कठ समय पूर्व बेरोजगार पायलटों ने हड्डताल की थी;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो सरकार का इस सम्बन्ध का कहां तक हल करने का विचार है; और

(ग) उसका पूरा व्यारा क्या है?

पर्यटन और नगर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री: (श्री चन्द्रलाल धीनदाकर): (क) जी, हाँ।

(ख) और (ग). पर्यटन और नगर विमानन मंत्रालय के नियंत्रणवर्ती विभिन्न संघठनों से कहा गया था कि वे बेरोजगार विमानचालकों को अन्य उपयुक्त नौकरियों में नियुक्त करने की संभावना का पता लगाए। इस संबंध में उनकी प्रतिक्रिया की सरकार द्वारा जांच की जा रही है।

जहां तक विमानचालकों के रूप में उनको भर्ती का संबंध है, इण्डियन एयरलाइंस ने 25 अप्रैलिस पायलट पहले ही भर्ती कर लिए हैं तथा चयन सूची में से 7 और को इस वर्ष प्रशिक्षण के लिए बुलाने की संभावना है। वर्ष 1981-82 के दौरान 25 और विमानचालकों की आवश्यकता पड़ गई और इण्डियन एयरलाइंस ने इन पदों का 2 जून, 1980 को विज्ञापन निकाल दिया है।

Starting of Vijayanagar Steel Plant

675. SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the assurance given by the Prime Minister to start Vijayanagar Steel Plant (Hospet, Ballary District, Karnataka) without delay; and

(b) do Government propose to take early steps to implement the pressing demand of Karnataka to take full advantage of Iron ore, availability of power and cheap labour etc. with a view to help the economy of country in general and Karnataka State in particular?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). In January, 1980, the Chief

Minister of Karnataka drew the Prime Minister's attention to the delay in the implementation of the Vijaynagar Steel Plant Project. The Prime Minister agreed to have the matter looked into.

As regards the present status of the project, the examination in SAIL of the Detailed Project Report in respect of Vijaynagar Steel Plant Project has been completed and the matter was placed before the SAIL Board. The Board has constituted a Committee to examine the Project Report and the Estimates.

Further action will be taken after the aforesaid Committee's report is received and considered by SAIL Board. Meanwhile, preliminary works like land acquisition for the plant, soil investigation, raw materials testing, etc., have been completed.

Increase/Decrease in Wholesale price Index

676. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of increase or decrease in whole sale price Index between 1st April, 1979 and January 20, 1980; and between January 20, 1980 and May 15, 1980; and

(b) outcome of Government's anti-price rise drive in physical terms?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) The rate of increase in the wholesale price index works out to 18.0 per cent between March 31, 1979 and January 19, 1980 and 6.1 per cent between January 19, 1980 and May 17, 1980.

(b) As a result of the various anti-inflationary measures taken by the present Government the rate of increase in wholesale prices has been moderated it amounted to 5.2 per cent between 12th January 1980 and 24th May 1980 as against the rise of 7.2

per cent in the corresponding period of 1979.

Alleged involvement of Embassy staff in Smuggling Activities

677. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the Diplomats' wives and other embassy staff are involved in smuggling activities, especially in gold, silver and watches etc.; and

(b) if so, steps taken or proposed to be taken for checking it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes, Sir. Several cases of smuggling of gold, silver, watches, etc., involving persons holding diplomatic passports have been detected by the Customs authorities.

(b) Government has taken appropriate action with the cooperation of the Governments of the countries concerned and remains in confidential touch with these Governments with a view to prevent any recurrence of such abuses. In view of the friendly relations and continuing cooperation with the countries concerned, it would not be appropriate to disclose the details.

Security Arrangements in ITDC Hotels

678. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the figure of loss due to pilferage, theft etc. of (i) silver-ware, (ii) consumers' articles (iii) Linen (iv) other articles etc. in the ITDC hotels for the last two years;

(b) what are the arrangements of watch and ward shift in each of the hotels; and

(c) have Government considered a proposal to have "Security Services" or Consultancy arrangements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDRALAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) As a result of intensive use, wear and tear, breakages, shortages, etc., are a normal feature in a service industry like hotels. The percentage of write-off and breakages of crockery, cutlery, kitchen utensils, etc., to total turnover declined from 1.1 per cent during 1977-78 to 1.0 per cent during 1978-79. Similarly, the percentage of consumption of linen and blankets to total turnover declined from 1.8 per cent during 1977-78 to 1.0 per cent during 1978-79. On this basis, the loss due to pilferage, theft, etc. could be considered as marginal.

(b) The security staff consisting mostly of Ex-servicemen are deployed in the ITDC Hotels. All points of entries and exists and important installations are adequately guarded.

(c) The Hotels have their own Security Departments. In view of this, it has not been found necessary to engage outside security services or make consultancy arrangements. The proposal of utilising the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) was not considered economical and feasible. Further, they do not have establishments at all places where ITDC units are located.

Export of Marine Products

679. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHAN-DASAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of fisheries product, exported from India in the years 1976-77 to 1978-79; and

(b) what was the share of such exports to U.S.A., Japan, Federal Republic of Germany, U.S.S.R, and France?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Total value of fishery products exported from India for the years 1976-77 to 1978-79 are furnished as under:

Year	Qty. (Tonnes)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1976-77	66750	189. 12
1977-78	65967	180. 95
1978-79	86894	234. 62

(b) Share of exports to USA, Japan, Federal Republic of Germany, USSR and France for the above three years are given below:

Q: Qty in Tonnes
V: Value in Rs. Lakhs

Country	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79
U.S.A.	215.2(32.2%)	22033(33.4%)	14034(16.1%)
	4884(25.8%)	4794(26.5%)	3351(14.3%)
Japan	29653(40.4%)	28731(43.6%)	37763(42.1%)
	11967(63.3%)	11077(61.2%)	16330(69.6%)
FED Rep Ger.	2(0.3%)	161(0.2%)	117(0.1%)
	12(0.1%)	33(0.2%)	46(0.2%)
USSR	..	Nil	..
France	3558(5.3%)	2609(3.9%)	5993(6.9%)
	816(4.3%)	615(3.4%)	1221(5.2%)

आय-कर अधिकारियों की मांगे

680. श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि आय-कर अधिकारी अपनी मांगों के संबंध में आन्दोलन कर रहे हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनकी मांगों का व्योरा क्या है; और

(ग) उन पर सरकार की क्या प्रतीक्षिया है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में उष-मंत्री (श्री मणि भाई बराट) : (क) तथा (ख). कुछ आयकर अधिकारियों और आयकर विभाग ने राजपत्रित अधिकारियों के अनेक संगठनों से एक ही जैसे प्रतिवेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं जिनमें निम्नलिखित प्रभुत्व मांगे उठायी गई हैं :—

(1) आयकर अधिकारी समूह 'क' कीनिष्ठ बेतनमान के ग्रेड में तदर्थ आधार पर की गई पदोन्नतियों को नियमित किया जाए।

(2) समूह 'क' के आयकर अधिकारियों से संशोधित 1973 के वरिष्ठता नियमों को संशोधित किया जाए और सहायक आयकर आयकर के ग्रेड में पदोन्नति संबंधी पात्रता-नियम को भी, कुल राजपत्रित सेवा को हिसाब में लेकर, संशोधित किया जाए।

(3) समूह 'क' के लिए पदोन्नति हेतु पात्रता की तारीख से वरिष्ठ बेतन मान सीधे अंजूर कर दिया जाय और पदोन्नति हेतु जबने पर बेतन, अनुक्रमिका सारणी के आधार पर नियत किया जाए।

(4) समूह 'क' में सीधी भरती रांक दी जानी चाहिए।

(5) आयकर अधिकारियों की सेवाओं में जह छेनी भेद है उसे दूर किया जाए और समूह 'क' के आयकर अधिकारियों का, एकीकृत बेतनमान के साथ, केवल एक ही तर्ज काम किया जाए।

(6) समूह 'ख' के आयकर अधिकारियों के संबंध में जो प्रगतिराध आ गया है उसे दूर किया जाए।

(7) समूह 'क' में पदोन्नति प्राप्त करने वाले अधिकारियों की प्रगति की संभावनाओं में सुधार किया जाए।

(ग) विगत में इन मांगों पर सावधानीपूर्वक विचार किया गया परन्तु उन्हें स्वीकार करना संभव नहीं हो सका। तथापि, राजपत्रित अधिकारियों की प्रगति की संभावनाओं के प्रश्न की सतत समीक्षा की जाती रहती है और जब कभी भी आवश्यक समझ जाता है, उपयुक्त कार्यवाही की जाती है।

Steps taken to promote Tourism for Common People

681. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PASHAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to promote tourism for the common people by providing facilities like concessional rail travel and cheap lodging at places of pilgrimage and other tourist interest;

(b) a brief outline of the steps taken for this purpose; and

(c) if no steps have been taken in this regard, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDU LAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. For providing facilities for a large number of pilgrims, a Society under the Societies Registration Act has been registered which will receive grants/donations from the Central and State Governments, religious/charitable trusts, institutions, individual etc. From the fund so created,

the Society will give grants/loans for the maintenance/improvement/expansion of dharmsalas/sarais/musafirkhanas at pilgrim centres. The Samiti would also construct such establishments. The Central Government has given an ad-hoc grant-in-aid to the Samiti of Rs. 5 lakhs in the fiscal year 1979-80.

Considering the importance of domestic tourism the Government is laying stress on providing proper facilities for them. A Yatri Nivas at Delhi with 1250 beds is under construction. This would provide accommodation and meals at inexpensive rates.

During various Plan periods in the Central Sector, schemes for provision of accommodation facilities in the form of Tourist Bungalows, Youth Hostels were undertaken. Similar programmes for development of accommodation facilities have been envisaged under the Plan programme in the Central Sector during the Five Year Plan (1980-85).

The Central Department of Tourism also proposes to develop Tourist Village complexes and other way-side amenities along major tourist routes for promoting facilities both for domestic and international tourists, subject to availability of funds.

The State Governments have also constructed Tourist Bungalows and Travellers Lodges, etc., which provide inexpensive accommodation. The various Tourism Development Corporations set up by the State Governments run package/conducted tours at economical rates for budget tourists.

Indian railways already offer 'Circular' tours to domestic tourists at concessional rates. Concessions are also given for the educational tours conducted by various schools, colleges and other organisations.

(c) Does not arise.

Opening of Branch of L.I.C. at Hamirpur in Himachal Pradesh

682. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a request for the opening of a branch of the LIC at Hamirpur in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government on this request; and

(c) if no decision has been taken, the likely date by which a decision in this regard would be taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The LIC has decided to open a Branch Office at Hamirpur and action is being taken to implement the decision during the current year.

Construction of Aerodrome at Simla

683. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PASHAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct an aerodrome at Simla or any other place in Himachal Pradesh during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDU LAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

Amalgamation of Agricultural Finance Corporation Ltd. and Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation

684. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the Banking Commission and the National Commission on Agriculture had recommended the amalgamation of the Agricultural Finance Corporation Ltd. and the Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation into a single national organisation with a view to providing credit and other infrastructural facilities to the agricultural sector; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to effect such an amalgamation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A committee set up in the Reserve Bank of India, to review arrangements for institutional credit for agricultural and rural development, is also reviewing, *inter alia*, the structures and operations of the Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation as also the consultancy services provided by the Agricultural Finance Corporation so as to make suitable recommendations in this regard.

Opening of Bank Branches in West Bengal

685. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) details of the proposals of opening bank branches in West Bengal during the next three years, year-wise; District-wise and bank-wise; and

(b) details of the bank branches opened in West Bengal, district-wise, bank-wise, during the last three years year-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). Information to the extent available is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Loans from Foreign Countries

686. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHAN-DASAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing:

(a) the present liability (in rupees) of the Government of India to each of the foreign countries from which loans have been taken;

(b) what is the total amount (in rupee value) of loans taken by India from foreign countries;

(c) what are total of loans taken and amounts repaid as part of principal amounts during the Janata Party's regime; and

(d) what, if any, is the total of interests paid by Government of India during the above period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). The total amount of loans taken by the Government of India from foreign countries/institutions up to March 31, 1980 was Rs. 15,351.23 crores. The outstanding liability of the Government to foreign countries and institutions from which loans have been taken, as on March 31, 1980 was Rs. 12,178.42 crores. Country/institution-wise details are given in the statement.

(c) and (d). The information pertaining to the period April 1, 1977 to Dec. 31, 1979 is as follows:

(Rs. crores)

(i) Total amount of loans taken (i.e. amount drawn)	2,394. 13
(ii) Total amount repaid towards principal	1,065. 68
(iii) Total amount paid towards interest	649. 96

Statement

Country-wise Foreign Debt in respect of loans on
Government Account

(Rupees crores)

Country/Institution	Debt Outstanding (at the daily rates of exchange as on 3-3-80)
1 USA	2,633.29
2 USSR	186.21
3 UK	881.70
4 Japan	820.42
5 France	329.78
6 F.R.G. . . .	1,363.78
7 Austria	27.65
8 Belgium	72.08
9 Canada	376.86
10 Denmark	24.95
11 Italy	24.43
12 Netherlands	425.68
13 Switzerland	21.71
14 UAE	58.10
15 Kuwait Fund	45.54
16 Abu Dhabi Fund	12.31
17 Saudi Fund	44.25
18 Iraq	116.22
19 Iran	788.46
20 Czechoslovakia	29.08
21 Hungary	10.51
22 Poland	7.48
23 Yugoslavia	0.01
24 IBRD	301.00
25 IDA	3,524.52
26 EEC (Special Action Credit)	22.69
27 OPEC Fund	29.71
TOTAL :	12,178.42

Amount invested by Government of
India in projects in Kerala

687. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHAN-DASAN: Will the Minister of FIN-
ANCE be pleased to lay on the Table
of the House a statement showing:

(a) the total amount invested by
the Government of India in projects
wholly owned by it as on 1st March,
1980 in Kerala;

(b) what is the percentage of such
investments of the Government of
India in Kerala of the total amount
invested in the Indian States for in-
dustrial purposes; and

(c) what was the total amount as
on 1st March, 1980 of direct invest-
ments by Government of India
and its financing organisation in in-
dustries not fully or partly owned by
it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b).
Presumably the Hon'ble Member is
referring to the investment by Gov-
ernment of India in industrial and
commercial projects of central public
enterprises. The total investments
(gross block) of central public enter-
prises in Kerala was Rs. 382.74 crores
at the end of March, 1979 out of a
total investment (gross block) of
Central enterprises of Rs. 16,667.93
crores in the country and as such
amounted to 2.3 per cent.

(c) Information on investments by
financial organisations of Government
of India would be collected to the ex-
tent feasible and laid on the Table of
the House.

Repayment of Foreign Loans

688. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHAN-DASAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has defaulted in re-payment of foreign loans or interest thereon in any of the years 1976—80; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). The repayment of principal and payment of interest charges in respect of loan/credit agreements concluded by the Government of India with foreign countries/institutions have always been made as provided in those agreements. There has been no default in making payments during 1976—80.

Exemption of basic drugs manufactured in India from Central Excise Duty

689. SHRI CHANDRA BAL MANI TIWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that basic drugs manufactured in our country are totally exempt from the levy of Central Excise Duty;

(b) if so, whether a notification has been issued to this effect;

(c) whether this exemption has been made in order to encourage production of basic drugs in the country; and

(d) what is the total revenue the Government is being deprived of on this account?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes, Sir. All drugs, medicines, pharmaceuticals and drug intermediates not elsewhere specified and falling under Item No. 68 of the CET are exempt from excise duty w.e.f. 1-3-78.

(b) Notification No. 62/78-CE dated 1st March 1978 which amends notification No. 55/75-CE dated 1st March 75 was issued as a part of 1978 Budget for exempting all drugs, medicines pharmaceuticals and drug intermediates not elsewhere specified.

(c) The exemption has been granted as the goods involved are sensitive categories of goods.

(d) The revenue involved in the exemption for the year 1978-79 was approximately Rs. 6 crores.

Opening of Bank Branches in the Country

690. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) number of bank branches opened in the country; State-wise during the last three years; year-wise and bank-wise; and

(b) number of bank branches proposed to be opened during the last three years; year-wise; state-wise and bank-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a). Required information, to the extent readily available, is set out in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No LT—885/80].

(b) While the Reserve Bank of India gives a broad indication to the banks about the aggregative size of the branch expansion of commercial banks during a specific period, no bankwise/ Statewise/Yearwise target of branch expansion are set.

Rise in Market Prices of Items of Daily Needs

691. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that the market prices of sugar, edible oil, pulses,

foodgrains, soap, baby food and other items of daily needs have risen very high during the last one year;

(b) what are the month-end market prices of the paid commodities in important markets in the country during the last twenty months; and

(c) what are the reasons for such abnormal rise in prices and what effective measures have been taken to the dehoarding of the commodities by the unsocial trade and bringing down the prices to a reasonable level?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) There has been general increase in the prices of a number of essential commodities including the ones specially mentioned in the question during the past one year.

(b) Information is given in statement laid on the Table of the House. [placed in Library. See No. LT—884/80.

(c) The rise in prices has been due to the cumulative impact of several factors such as monetary and fiscal policies, unprecedented drought, increase in administered prices of several commodities and rise in import prices of several commodities including crude petrol, petroleum products and cement. The situation has been further aggravated by severe difficulties in transport and power sectors affecting production of essential commodities and their movement.

A number of measures have been taken by Government in last six months to improve the situation. The monthly releases of cereals from the Central pool, free-sale sugar and imported edible oils for sale through the public distribution system have been stepped up substantially. Import of edible oils is being continued and it has been decided to import a limited quantity of sugar. Forward trading in gur has been suspended and margins on bank advances against gur and khandsari

have been raised. There has been a significant increase in the number of fair price shops, particularly in the drought affected States. The export of goat and sheep meat has been banned. The supply of kerosene to States has been raised. Several measures have been taken to improve the movement of essential commodities by Railways.

The provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the orders issued thereunder as well as the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 are being enforced by the States.

Amount Advanced by Nationalised Banks for Industrial development in Burdwan District of West Bengal

692. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) total amount lent by the nationalised banks in the Burdwan District in West Bengal for the industrial development during the last three years; year-wise and industry-wise;

(b) total amount lent by these banks for the Rikshawpuller, Agricultural labour, Bargadar, Small Scale Units etc. during the abovementioned period; year-wise; and

(c) details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (c). Data in the manner asked for is not yielded by the statistical reporting system of the Reserve Bank. Available data regarding sectoral deployment of outstanding credit of scheduled Commercial Banks in Burdwan District as at the end of December 1974 and December 1977—covering a three year period—are set out in the statement.

Statement

Sectoral Deployment of outstanding Credit of Scheduled Commercial Banks in Burdwan
District of West Bengal

(Rs. in thousands)

S No.	Item	December 1974	December 1977
1. Agriculture		20972	52753
(a) Direct		19445	47410
(b) Indirect		1487	4743
2. Industry of which		1292525	1365172
(a) Food manufacturing		5140	5388
(b) Textile		12750	19436
(c) Chemicals		15206	29749
(d) Metals		521708	702209
(e) Engineering		250616	193098
(f) Others		287105	415292
3. Transport Operators		5938	42986
4. Trade		13227	19227
5. Services		3327	4977
6. Others		23280	44946
7. Total Credit		1159229	1529461
Of which Small Scale Industries		67347	52624

Export of Mangoes

693. SHRI BHEEKHABHAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) how much quantity of mangoes are to be exported during this year; and

(b) the names of the countries to whom mangoes will be exported and details of the export target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) About 4000 tonnes of mangoes are likely to be exported during 1980-81. However, there is no quantitative restriction on export.

(b) The major importers of Indian mangoes are Dubai, Kuwait, Bahrein, U.K., Qatar, Saudi Arabia. Export targets have not been fixed country-wise in respect of fresh fruits.

Release of more Edible Oil to Arrest Prices

694. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KOCHACK: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Union Government took a decision to release more edible oil to halt the price rise;

(b) if so, the total quantity of edible oil released;

(c) whether in spite of this release there was no effect on the prices of edible oil, which continued to rise;

(d) whether even now the price of edible oil have been increasing rapidly and also there is a dearth thereof in the market; and

(e) if so, what other steps Government propose to take to resolve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) and (b). In order to meet the growing demand for edible oils in the various States, an additional *ad hoc* allocation of imported oils to the extent of about 22,000 tonnes had been made during May, 1980. This took the total quantity allotted by the Central Government during the first 7 months of the current oil-year (which began on 1st November, 1979), to over 2.42 lakh tonnes. Out of these, about 1.58 lakh tonnes of these oils were lifted by the various State Governments during the same period for public distribution.

(c) to (e) The rise in the prices of edible oils in the country in the past months had been due to a number of factors, including the shortfall in indigenous production arising out of the widespread drought. This was sought to be met by the Government through a series of steps, one of which was the release of greater quantities of imported edible oils for public distribution at fair prices. This has increased the overall availability of edible oils to the consumers. In recent weeks, the edible oil prices have tended to steady and recent market reports indicate a fall in the price of some of the oils like sesame oil. In order to meet the gap between the demand and the indigenous supply of oils, Government intend to continue the import of edible oils. The other steps which have been taken include measures to revitalise the Public Distribution System, implementation of an 'action plan' to increase in the production of indigenous oilseeds during the current year, increase in the manufacture of popular oils like Vanaspati, and action in conjunction with the

State Governments towards a vigorous enforcement of the various provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and the orders issued thereunder, to dehoard the stocks. Similarly, the State Governments have also been asked to implement the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.

Payment of Dearness Allowance to Central Government Employees

695. SHRI CHANDRA PAL SHAILANI:

SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether two instalments of D.A. have become due for payment to the Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the months from which these instalments have become due

(c) whether orders have been issued for the payment of these instalments; and

(d) if not, the reasons for abnormal delay in sanctioning these instalments and the time by which orders for payment would be issued so that the difficulties of low-paid Government employees could be mitigated?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (d). Consequent to the Consumer Price Index average reaching 352 points at the end of January, 1980, Government have decided to pay one more instalment of dearness allowance to Central Government employees with effect from 1-2-1980. Orders in this regard are likely to issue shortly.

According to the index figures for April 1980, received very recently, the index average has crossed 360 points at the end of April 1980. The question

of grant of another instalment of DA to Central Government employees from 1-5-1980 has accordingly become due for consideration.

Study by Market Research wing of Textiles Committee on Consumption of varieties of Cloth

696. SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Market Research Wing of the Textiles Committee had made a study recently on the consumption pattern of different varieties of cloth in the country;

(b) if so, the important observations made therein; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to recast the textile policy on the basis of these observations?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report, based on a sample study of household consumption of textiles over a period of time has, in regard to demand projections, indicated a nominal rate of growth, at constant prices, in cheaper qualities compared with those for costly ones. The report recommends further study of the issue as it has far-reaching policy implications in regard to the production pattern.

(c) The demand projections for the Five Year Plan 1980—85 are currently being worked out; the planning strategy for the integrated development of all sectors of textile industry would be evolved on the basis of this exercise.

Import of Steel

698. SHRI D. P. JADEJA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued orders that actual users can import steel as per their requirement;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted; and

(c) the details of the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). No, Sir. The imports are governed by the provisions in the Import Policy for 1980-81, which is incorporated in three lists—

(1) *Banned list*:—Items whose import is banned.

(2) *Restricted list*:—Items whose import is allowed automatically to actual users upto prescribed limits.

(3) *Canalised list*:—Items which can be imported only through canalising agencies.

Items which do not figure in these lists can be imported under Open General Licence by Actual users (Industrial).

Rise in Wholesale Price Index

699. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wholesale price index has shot up by 20 per cent during the past three months;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the consumer price index has also gone up by 15 per cent during the same period;

(c) what are the reasons for this steep rise; and

(d) whether any steps have been taken by Government to bring down the prices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MANGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Wholesale Price Index (1970-71 = 100) increased by 3.2 per cent in the three months ended May 24, 1980. Due to a time-lag of about 6 weeks in the

availability of the monthly All-India Industrial Workers' Consumer Price Index (1980 = 100) information for the same period in regard to consumer price indices is not available. However, the consumer price index for March 1980 was 6.3 per cent lower than that for December 1979.

(c) The price trends in the current financial year are a continuation of the inflationary pressures during 1979-80. The factors behind these pressures include fall in production due to drought, upward adjustments in administered prices of certain commodities, and increases in oil prices.

(d) Government is keeping careful watch of the price situation. Several measures have been taken to contain the rise in prices. These consist of: strengthening the public distribution system, augmenting domestic availability through imports of commodities in short supply, restraining undue expansion in money supply and bank credit and increasing production through improvement of infrastructure.

Restriction on Activities of J.C.I.

700. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to restrict the activities of the June Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) whether a suggestion was made by his Ministry to close down JCI; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The functioning of the JCI remains under constant review of Government. Its

activities came under closer scrutiny during the current year owing to the accumulation of large stocks of raw jute procured by them during the preceding two years.

JCI will have to formulate its commercial buying policies in accordance with its capacity to sell the stocks in the market, both domestic and foreign.

JCI will, however, continue to play its role in providing requisite price support-operations.

(c) and (d). No Sir. Does not arise.

Supply of Pig Iron to Foundries in West Bengal

701. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the fact that the supply of pig iron to foundries in West Bengal from the steel plants under the club rake system has been stopped since February, 1980;

(b) whether he is aware about the fact that the withdrawal of this facility from the Eastern Region only was discriminatory as the northern and other regions continued to enjoy it; and

(c) if so, reaction of government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). No, Sir. Club rakes have been despatched to foundries in West Bengal even after February 1980 for manufacture of railway sleepers and against Engineering Export Promotion Council allocations. However supplies to Indian Foundry Association, Calcutta, in rake load was discontinued from February 1980, in order to maintain parity with supplies to other similar Associations during that year. From June 1980, in accordance with the new distribution guidelines, pig iron is being supplied to

foundries through stockyards or Small Scale Industries Corporations, and supplies through Foundries Associations have been discontinued.

Study Regarding Working of Public Sector Units

702. SHRI AHMED M. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government had ordered a case-to-case study of the working of Public Sector Units;
- (b) if so, whether any report has been received in this regard; and
- (c) the result achieved?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) Constitution of an Export Committee for undertaking a study particularly of the larger public sector units and those which are incurring heavy losses is under consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Stimulating the Industrial Production in the Field of Cotton Textiles

703. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to stimulate industrial production, particularly in the field of cotton textiles in view of the present stagnation in the industrial sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). There has been some marginal set-back in production of textiles during the current year due mainly to inavailability of power supply. Production of yarn has, however, been safeguarded through steps,

such as permission granted to industry for using discarded spindles and relaxation given to waste spinning units for spinning even upto 40 counts. The impact of reduction in manufactured fabrics in the organised sector due to power cuts have been minimised to some extent by production in hand-looms. With the improvement of the power supply situation and the implementation of modernisation programmes, textile production is expected to be stimulated.

Stimulating the Industrial Production of Steel

704. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to stimulate industrial production, particularly in the field of steel in view of the present stagnation in the industrial sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). A number of measures; such as close monitoring of supplies of power and coal, effective liaison with State Administrations to ensure improved law and order, increased generation from captive power plants and augmentation of their capacity; have already been taken to improve production of steel, which would, it is hoped, stimulate production in steel-based industries by removing constraints on the availability of their basic raw material.

Indo-Nepal Trade

705. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sino-Nepalese trade agreement has any effect on the Indo-Nepal trade;

(b) whether the opening of more passes in the Himalayas to trade with Tibet by China will have any adverse effect on the Indo-Nepal Trade; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to protect Indian interest?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). No negative impact on Indo-Nepal trade has been felt, or is visualised, as a result of Nepal's trading arrangements with the Peoples Republic of China. On their part, Government continue to make efforts to strengthen further the close bilateral commercial and economic ties with Nepal.

Dry Port in Delhi

706. **SHRI D. P. JADEJA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish dry port in Delhi;

(b) if so, the progress in this regard; and

(c) when the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). The Government had in 1974 decided in principle to establish a dry port in the Northern Region of India. However, in July, 1977 the Government had decided not to take up the project for immediate implementation. In view of representations received, it was considered some time back that a revised scheme, which would make dry port facilities available to the exporters as also confer benefits of containerisation, should be formulated. Accordingly, efforts are

being made to formulate a revised scheme. It is difficult to give any details at this stage.

Loss in Steel Plants due to Power Shortage

707. **SHRI K. PRADHANI:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production loss to Steel plants, under Steel Authority of India Ltd. due to power shortage during 1979-80 is expected to cross ten lakh tonnes of saleable steel against two lakh tonnes in 1977-78 and 1978-79; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the power availability to plants and the steps Governments have taken for steady and regular supply of power to these plants?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The loss of production in respect of saleable pig iron and saleable steel in SAIL plants owing to power and coal shortage for the years 1977-78 to 1979-80 is given below:—

Year	(Loss of production due to coal and power)	
	Saleable pig iron ('000 tonnes)	Saleable steel ('000 tonnes)
1977-78 . . .	329	286
1978-79 . . .	54	501
1979-80 . . .	650	1,032

It is difficult to segregate the loss owing to power shortage alone.

(b) The restrictions on drawal of power and duration of such restric-

tions during 1979-80 for steel plants under SAIL against their respective

contractual demand have been as follows:—

Plant	Source of Supply	Contractual Demand (MVA)	Drawal Restrictions		
			Range (MVA)	Duration Hrs	% of calendar Hrs
Bhilai	Madhya Pradesh Elecy. Board (MPEB)	90	30—80	3578	40.7
Rourkela	Orissa State Elecy. Board	110	0—70	4919	56.0
Durgapur	Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)	50	0—40	7738	88.1
Bokaro	DVC	45	0—110	7823	89.1
Indian Iron & Steel Co.	DVC	25	40—17	7016	79.9

Steps taken to improve power availability for steel plants are as follows:—

(i) Decision has been taken to increase captive power capacity at Bokaro from 122 MW at present by addition of 180 MW capacity.

(ii) Decision has been taken to increase captive power capacity at Durgapur from 20 MW at present by addition 120 capacity.

(iii) Proposal for increasing captive power generation capacity at Rourkela from 128 MW at present by addition of 120MW capacity is under consideration.

(iv) Liaison with Department of Power and public utilities is being maintained to help improve the power availability to steel plants. The power situation is being reviewed at inter-ministerial level on a weekly basis.

Construction of Janata Hostels

708. SHRI K. PRADHANI:

SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the details regarding the Janata Hotels, (State-wise) under construction at present;

(b) whether Government have promised to provide facilities at cheaper rates in these hotels; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the charges of accommodation per room, lunch, dishes and other charges that have been announced by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) A 1250 bed Yatri Nivas is under construction in Delhi in the Central Sector.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The rates proposed at present for boarding and lodging are as follows:—

Lodging:

Rs. 15 per bed in a double room
Rs. 30 for a 2-bedded room.
Rs. 10 for a bed in 4-bedded room.

Rs.

Lunch and dinner (vegetarian— standard thali)	4.50
Non-vegetarian Lunch and dinner	6.00
Tea	0.50
Breakfast	2.00

Rise in Prices

709. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the agricultural commodities

which contributed to price increases between March, 1979, and March, 1980 are rice, fruit and vegetables, sugar, khandsari and gur and edible oils;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in addition to deteriorating supply of non-agricultural commodities such as petroleum crude and natural gas, mineral oils, coal mining, iron, steel and ferro-alloys there are some other factors responsible for the price rise; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the rise in prices in the above mentioned items and the reaction of Government to stabilise their prices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (c). The relative contributions of various items in the over-all increase in wholesale prices between March, 1979 and March, 1980 are given below:—

Percentage Varia- Share in the
tion in Whole- overall increase
sale Price Index (per cent)
(1970-71 = 100)
between March
1979 and March
1980

1. Rice	20.5	4.0
2. Fruits & Vegetables	15.0	3.4
3. Sugar, Khandsari and Gur	98.6	25.3
4. Edible oils	33.8	4.8
5. Petroleum crude and Natural Gas	98.2	11.9
6. Mineral oils	15.4	6.8
7. Coal mining	54.8	3.2
8. Iron, Steel & Ferro-Alloys	19.4	3.6

In addition, other items which figured prominently in the price rise include oilseeds (+33.8 per cent), machinery & transport equipment (+ 15.0 per cent), cotton textiles (+ 7.8 per cent) and jute manufactures (+29.0 per cent).

Government is determined to contained the rise in prices. The anti-inflationary policy package consists of strengthening the Public Distribution System, augmenting domestic availability through imports of commodities in short supply, curbing anti-social

activity such as blackmarketing, profiteering, and hoarding, restraining undue expansion in money supply and bank credit, increasing production and more efficient management of infrastructure. Further steps will be taken as and when necessary.

Rubber Cultivation

711. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rubber Board has a proposal under consideration to bring an additional 60,000 hectares under cultivation of rubber;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to spread the rubber cultivation to other prospective areas such as Konkan in Maharashtra and the North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). The Rubber Board has submitted a Rubber Plantation Development Scheme aimed at bringing a total area of 60,000 hectares under new planting/replanting in the country during 1980-81 to 1984-85. This would include newplanting of rubber in 13,500 hectares in non-traditional areas like Konkan and North-Eastern States. The scheme envisages capital subsidy at differential rates to rubber growers owning upto 20 hectares and those owning rubber plantations exceeding 20 hectares, interest subsidy to growers owning rubber plantations upto 20 hectares, input subsidy to growers owning not more than 6 hectares and free advisory and extension support.

Extraction of Natural Rubber from Guayule Plant

712. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been discovered that natural rubber can be extracted from guayule plant a desert shrub;

(b) if so, whether this plant can be grown profitably in and around regions of Rajasthan, Gujarat and other States; and

(c) if so, whether Government have been taking any measures in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is likely to grow well in semi-arid regions. The profitability can be ascertained only after cultivation.

(c) Preliminary investigations on this plant have been initiated by the Rubber Board.

Proposal of European Economic Community to include Handlooms in Quota System

713. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the European Economic Community has proposed to include handlooms in the quota system;

(b) if so, to what extent it will affect our handlooms export trade; and

(c) what is the Union Government's reaction to the E.E.C.'s proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Import of Coking Coal

714. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKHARA MURTHY:

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KOCHAK:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Ltd. have approached Govern-

ment for import of interim quantity of five lakh tonnes of coking coal immediately to be followed by same quantity on global tenders;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government;

(c) whether India has already received almost the entire present targeted quantity of 1.2 million tonne coking coal to run the steel plants under SAIL;

(d) whether the present balance of imported coal available at various parts in the country for supply to various steel plants and also expected coal from Australia will be sufficient only upto the 15th of June;

(e) whether the Steel authorities have impressed upon Government the urgent need of a continuity in import of coking coal to tide over the heavy shortfall in coal received, particularly of prime coking coal from indigenous sources; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The stock of imported coking coal is likely to last upto the end of June, 1980.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) A final view in the matter is yet to be taken.

Trade prospects during 1980-81

715. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHE-KHARA MURTHY:

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KOCHAK:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have admitted that during 1980-81 the trade prospects are very dim;

(b) if so, the main reasons for this low prospects of trade;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to improve the trade prospects; and

(d) if so, the main points of the new proposals and to what extent these schemes will help to improve the trade prospects?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The trade prospects for 1980-81 are considered difficult in view of persistent recessionary situation in world economy, particularly in industrial countries. Besides there are domestic constraints like shortage of power, coal and certain basic raw-materials, transport and shipping difficulties.

(c) and (d). Government is taking possible measures to identify and remove constraints in export production and infrastructural facilities, so as to boost exports. For the current financial year 1980-81 the export target has been fixed at Rs. 7100 crores (provisional) which is no less ambitious. The Import Policy for the current financial year 1980-81, which was announced on 15th April, 1980 has been given export orientation. In order to help exports, the policy contains the following salient features:

(i) Manufacturer-exporters will have a wider choice than before for the import of items against their replenishment licences.

(ii) The scheme for the grant of advance licences with benefit of duty exemption has been made more wider in scope than before.

(iii) A scheme has been introduced to allow duty free imports against replenishment licences. To begin with, the scheme is applicable to a few export products only.

(iv) The import policy for Export Houses has been liberalised to enable Export Houses to render greater

assistance to their supporting manufacturers in the supply of imported inputs.

(v) Manufacturer-Exporters exporting 10 per cent or more of their production will be given automatic licences as Actual Users for Import of raw materials and components for a value 10 per cent higher than their actual consumption.

Loans by Financial Institutions for import of Crude and Oil

716. **SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKHARA MURTHY:**

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KOCHAK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had asked the financial institutions to provide funds in a massive way for import of crude and oil;

(b) whether the LIC and UTI have agreed to provide loans in this regard; and

(c) if so, the rates of interest at which these loans would be provided?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (c). To meet their additional requirements arising out of the sudden increase in the price of crude oil in the latter part of 1979 oil companies have negotiated accommodation for specified periods from the financial institutions including LIC and UTI at 12 per cent rate of interest.

Review Report of National Council of Applied Economic Research

717. **SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHE-KHARA MURTHY:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council of Applied Economic Research has forecast continued upward trend in prices

in 1980-81 and decline in foreign exchange reserves with rising imports;.

(b) if so, what are the other points mentioned by the Council in their review report; and

(c) if so, the extent to which Government are agreeable to their view and what steps are being considered to check this tendency and also improve the industrial production during 1980-81?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). In an article entitled "Review of the Indian Economy", published in April 1980 Issue of their Quarterly Journal called MARGIN, the National Council of Applied Economic Research has reviewed the trends regarding agricultural and industrial production, prices and foreign trade etc. On the basis of the trends it has predicted widening of the trade deficit in 1980-81 and the chances of a continued uptrend in prices.

(c) A number of steps have been taken since January 1980 to step up production, stabilise prices and increase export earnings. The coming Budget of the Central Govt. for the year 1980-81 may spell out further measures. The situation is kept under continuous review and suitable measures will be taken as and when necessary.

Complaints Regarding Management of United Commercial Bank, Calcutta

718. **SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaint from the Federation of Cottage & Small Scale Industries, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, regarding the management of United Commercial Bank, Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). A copy of a printed memorandum date 17th April, 1979 submitted by the Federation of Cottage & Small Scale Industries, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, to the Chairman and Managing Director, United Commercial Bank and referring to their grievances regarding the institution of recovery proceedings by the United Commercial Bank was received by the Government in May, 1979. The Bank had deputed two Officers from its Head Office staff to investigate the allegations against the bank's branch. The investigation revealed that the allegations were without substance.

Income Tax Raids in Bombay

719. **SHRI JAI NARAIN ROAT:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Income-tax raids conducted on the business premises and residential places of individuals and firms in Bombay during the year 1979;

(b) the names of those individual/firms and the amount seized and valuable articles confiscated during these raids; and

(c) whether the said individuals have been found guilty and if so, action taken against them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) 701 business and residential premises involving 539 cases were searched in Bombay during the year 1979.

(b) In these searches cash, jewellery, bullion and other valuables worth rupees 1.60 crores (approximately) were seized.

Considerable time and effort will be involved in giving details of name and seizure made in the case of each search. However, if the Hon. Member desires to have information about a particular search the same will be furnished.

(c) These searches were carried out for detection of suspected concealed income and/or assets. Proceedings under the Income-tax Act in these cases have not become final as yet.

Credit Facilities to Rural People in Villages

720. **SHRI JAI NARAIN ROAT:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether Government have issued any directives to the nationalised banks to ensure that the people in villages enjoy, credit facilities with a view to changing the socio-economic conditions in the country side?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): It has been the endeavour of the Government to ensure that the public sector banks develop and function in such a manner as to contribute to the process of rural development through increasing credit assistance to viable ventures of farmers, artisans, craftsmen and those engaged in cottage and village industries and other small self-employment ventures in rural areas. Guidelines have been issued from time to time to secure simplification of application forms and lending procedures, larger deployment of credit through rural and semi-urban branches and increased assistance to priority sectors through stipulation of overall targets and greater involvement of banks in programmes of development in rural areas such as SFDA, DPAP, IRD etc. The emphasis on extension of branch network of commercial banks to the rural areas and the programme of setting up regional rural banks is also directed towards ensuring availability of credit to rural people for viable economic activities.

Opening of Branches of Nationalised Banks in Rajasthan

721. SHRI JAI NARAIN ROAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of new branches proposed to be opened by the nationalised banks in Rajasthan during the Sixth Plan period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): The current branch licensing policy of the Reserve Bank of India covers the three year period 1979—81 and seeks to ensure that the branch expansion efforts of commercial banks during this period are primarily devoted towards providing banking facilities at unbanked rural and semi-urban centres in deficit districts having poorer banking coverage than one bank office for every 20,000 rural/semi-urban people.

In pursuance of this policy 193 branches are to be opened in deficit districts of Rajasthan during 1979—81.

The Reserve Bank of India is overseeing the implementation of the programme in consultation with the Government of Rajasthan.

Rise in Prices

722. SHRI P. M. SAYEED:

SHRI N. E. HORO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether wholesale prices of commodities during the fiscal year 1979-80 ended March 31, 1980, recorded 16.78 per cent increase as compared to zero per cent in the corresponding period of previous year;

(b) whether according to official study the wholesale prices index moved upto 216.8 at the end of March, 1980 compared to 185.8 at the end of March, 1978-79 and 185.8 at the end of March, 1977-78;

(c) if so, what are the main reasons for this unprecedented rise; and

(d) what measures Government are considering to bring them under control?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) The increase during 1979-80 was 16.7 per cent as compared to no change in the index during 1978-79.

(b) These figures relate to the averages of the months for the financial years 1979-80, 1978-79 and 1977-78 respectively rather than at the end of the financial year.

(c) The main reasons for the sharp rise in prices in 1979-80 include: wide-spread drought in the country resulting in decline in the output of agricultural and agro-based industries, upward adjustment in administered prices of items such as iron & steel, coal, non-ferrous metals, increase in the international price of oil and existence of liquidity in the system.

(d) Several steps have already been taken to bring the prices under reasonable check. These include strengthening the Public Distribution System, augmenting domestic availability through imports of commodities in short supply, curbing anti-social activities, increasing production, more efficient management of infrastructures and restraining undue expansion in money supply and bank credit. Further steps would be taken as and when necessary.

Distribution of National Wealth

723. SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council of Applied Economic Research in their report have stated that the top one per cent households in the country hold 14 per cent of the National Wealth while bottom 15 per cent households account

for less than 7 per cent of the National Wealth;

(b) if so, whether they have also pointed out that in urban and rural areas there is a high degree of concentration of wealth with varied magnitude;

(c) what are the other main features of the Survey report;

(d) whether Government are considering to take stringent measures to see that National Wealth is distributed among the low category of people rather than concentrated in the top 1 per cent; and

(e) if so, what are the measures likely to be taken to reduce this gap?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) In their study entitled "Household Income and its Disposition" the National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi have stated that the top one per cent of the households in the country hold fourteen per cent of the national wealth while the bottom fifty per cent households account for less than seven per cent of the national wealth.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The study was made on the basis of the material collected for the agricultural year, July, 1975 to June, 1976. Data for analysis was collected from a scientifically chosen sample of 5,125 households spread over the rural and urban parts of the country. Of these, 3,015 rural households were selected from 237 villages, and 2,110 urban households from 150 cities/towns. The study contains a detailed analysis of the overall pattern and distribution of income, investment, wealth and savings of the household sector in the country and the influencing social, economic and demographic factors.

(d) and (e). It has been the constant endeavour of the Government for a more equitable distribution of the national wealth rather than concentration in a few hands. Among the steps already taken for reducing disparities in income and wealth mention may be made of the socio-economic measures to improve the economic status of the poor by creating productive employment opportunities, supplemented by adequate care of their minimum needs through public expenditures and land reforms; progressive taxation and fiscal measures to reduce the disposable incomes of the high-income groups controlling and curbing monopolies through the MRTP Act; stipulating ceilings on salaries and perquisites in the organised private sector. In addition some more long-term and immediate measures are contemplated. The re-constituted Planning Commission is now engaged in recasting the Sixth Plan. The Government considers that the 20-Point economic programme has a great role to play in the direction of better distribution of national wealth and would therefore like the programme to be woven into the developmental Plan.

Complaints against Indian Airlines Flight Delays

724. **SHRI P. M. SAYEED:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of complaints have been received against the Indian Airlines flight delays;

(b) if so, whether both Air India and Indian Airlines have not made any improvement in regard to their services;

(c) whether the Union Government are considering to expand the present fleet of both Air India and Indian Airlines; and

(d) if so, by what time both the Airlines will be able to provide seats to each and every passenger and also overcome flight delays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) (a) Yes, Sir. Some complaints have been received in this regard.

(b) All flight delays are scrutinised at various levels and remedial actions are taken. It is the constant endeavour of both the Corporations and the Government to maintain punctuality of flights while ensuring the highest standard of flight safety.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines will be purchasing two Airbus and four Boeing-737 aircraft in the current year. Four more Boeing-737 aircraft will be added to Indian Airlines' fleet in 1981. Air-India has placed letter of intent for the purchase of three Boeing-747 aircraft. It is expected that with the expansion of the fleet of the two airlines, availability of seats and punctuality of flights will improve considerably.

Closure of Stainless Steel Units due to rise in Current Prices

725. SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 70 stainless steel manufacturing units in the northern region are facing immediate closure following substantial increase in the price of imported raw material;

(b) if so, whether manufacturers have not lifted stainless steel sheets from the MMTC because of the rise in the current price;

(c) if so, whether they have pointed out that the price of the metal could be brought down to Rs. 57,000 per tonne by reduction of the import duty of 220 per cent to 50 per cent; and

(d) if so, what are the other arguments and suggestions made by them and whether Government are considering their suggestions and what steps are being taken to see that the stainless steel units do not face closure threat?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The off-take of stainless steel from MMTC during the later part of 1979-80 was poor due to (i) loss of production on account of power cuts, (ii) financial strain due to credit squeeze; and (iii) substantial fall in demand for the end products.

(c) and (d). There have been representations from the utensil manufacturers for reduction of import duty from 220 per cent to 120 per cent and MMTC release prices. There have also been counter representations from the re-rolling units within the country and various producers, particularly mini steel plants for increasing import duties to improve marketability of stainless steel produced within the country. Government have been trying to strike a balance between the producer and consumer interests.

Offer from French Government

728. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that French Government have offered to the Government of India efficient industrial engines which consumes less oil and petroleum products; and

(b) if so, what are the details of offer and what is the reaction of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Air Link with Bhutan

729. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bhutanese Team visited India in the month of May, 1980 to discuss with Indian Airlines to have airlink with India; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Raising of Lending Rate by Commercial Banks to Farm Sector

730. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued instructions to the commercial banks to raise the lending rate to the farm sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Credits to Priority Sectors of West Bengal

731. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) steps taken by Government to step up credits to the priority sectors of West Bengal so that the share in aggregate credit is raised from the

present level of 20 per cent to the proposed national average of 40 per cent; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). The target of priority sectors accounting for 40 per cent of their aggregate credit by 1985 has been indicated to the public sector banks as an aggregative all-India objective. However, the need to secure greater efforts to enlarge the flow of credit to the priority sectors particularly in the rural and semi-urban areas of West Bengal is recognised. The banks have, therefore, been asked to examine the working of their branches particularly in such districts as have a very low credit: deposit ratio, provide adequate field staff in the rural and semi-urban branches and to secure programmed effort for increasing assistance to agriculture and allied activities and to artisans, craftsmen and village and small industries. A Standing Working Group under the convenorship of the Reserve Bank of India and having representatives of the State Bank of India, the three lead banks in West Bengal and the State Government, has been set up to oversee the measures being taken by the banks to increase their lending to the priority sectors, particularly to the beneficiaries of the 20-Point Programme in the State of West Bengal.

Release of Funds by Banks for Small Sector in West Bengal

732. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the necessary funds are not being released by the Banks for the Small Sector in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) total amount released/sanctioned by the banks during the last three years in West Bengal for the development of small sector;

(d) names of those units and amount; and

(e) what is the allocation of funds for the different States (State-wise) during the last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (c). Presumably by 'small sector' the Hon'ble Member is referring to priority sectors, viz. agriculture, small scale industry, Road & Water Transport operators, Retail Trade & Small Business, Professional & Self-employed and Education, which broadly comprise small ventures. Advances of public sector banks to these sectors in West Bengal show an upward trend

as can be seen from the data set out below:—

Public Sector Banks. Advances to Priority Sectors in West Bengal

	As on the last Friday of	Amount outstanding (Rs. in lakhs)
December, 1976	.. .	193,27.83
December, 1977	.. .	239,94.97
December, 1978	.. .	319,71.19

(d) Such information is not collected in respect of small loans. Besides, usages and practices customary among bankers and the provisions contained in Section 13(1) of the Banking Companies (Acquisition & Transfer of Undertakings) Act, prevent the banks from divulging information relating to their individual constituents.

(e) Data relating to State-wise distribution of public sector banks' outstanding advances to priority sectors as on the last Friday of December, 1976, 1977 and 1978 are set out in the Statement.

Statement

Public Sector Bank Advances to Priority Sectors

(Rs. in Lakhs)

State / Union Territories		As on the last Friday of December 1976	1977	1978*
Andhra Pradesh	.. . . . . . .	23,745.89	29,215.06	38,106.62
Assam	.. . . . . . .	2,427.35	2,975.35	3,686.90
Bihar	.. . . . . . .	12,634.55	16,224.57	21,268.01
Gujarat.	.. . . . . . .	25,031.68	29,129.53	36,676.33
Haryana	.. . . . . . .	9,321.59	12,970.95	18,036.49
Himachal Pradesh	.. . . . . . .	868.16	1,242.43	1,857.02
Jammu & Kashmir.	.. . . . . . .	1,134.11	1,489.11	2,011.83
Karnataka	.. . . . . . .	28,153.97	32,177.79	37,711.92

	1	2	3	4
Kerala	.	12,580.42	13,716.40	20,082.32
Madhya Pradesh	.	12,744.02	15,931.49	20,165.08
Maharashtra	.	53,915.15	63,008.79	75,761.50
Manipur	.	164.54	256.38	307.74
Meghalaya	.	186.56	240.03	315.95
Nagaland	.	74.73	83.45	122.33
Orissa	.	3,496.37	5,148.89	7,292.45
Punjab	.	16,518.37	22,235.81	30,232.94
Rajasthan	.	8,253.81	10,636.01	15,206.77
Tamilnadu	.	30,866.92	34,479.76	42,958.57
Tripura	.	267.02	356.94	557.34
Uttar Pradesh	.	28,273.67	35,839.62	48,445.79
West Bengal	.	19,327.33	23,994.97	31,971.19
Sikkim	.	..	4.44	6.34
<i>Union Territories :</i>				
Andaman & Nicobar Island	.	45.25	47.57	85.47
Arunachal Pradesh	.	8.32	24.36	27.05
Chandigarh	.	1,443.26	2,052.56	2,316.19
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	.	30.11	52.79	42.58
Delhi	.	9,415.341	1,565.63	16,969.55
Goa, Daman & Diu	.	1,812.04	2,198.24	2,442.27
Lak hadweep	.	2.28	1.92	1.75
Mizoram	.	8.02	9.65	41.15
Pondicherry	.	885.90	966.70	1,145.06
Total	.	3,03,636.73	3,69,277.18	4,75,929.52

*(Data are provisional)

Credit Deposit Ratio of Rural and Semi-Urban Branches of Scheduled Commercial Banks

733. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is at present the credit deposit ratio of rural and semi-urban branches of Scheduled Commercial Banks;

(b) if it has not reached 60 per cent, what steps are taken to achieve it; and

(c) how much of the total rural credit of these banks has been used by big industries for the development?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) As at the end of June, 1979, the Credit Deposit Ratio of the rural and semi-urban branches of the Scheduled Commercial Banks worked out to 54.4 per cent and 47.3 per cent respectively.

(b) Banks have been asked to step up the flow of their credit to agricultural sector as also to rural artisans, craftsmen and village and cottage industries. Application forms and lending procedures for these categories of borrowers have been simplified. Banks have been asked to provide adequate field staff in their rural and semi-urban branches for developmental lending. Use of intermediaries such as Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies is being encouraged so as to improve the effective coverage of the farming community. Banks are also actively participating in Programmes such as SFDA, DPAP, IRD etc. and deploying larger funds to Agriculture and allied activities through their rural and semi-urban branches.

(c) Precise data in this regard is not readily available. Rural and semi-urban branches are expected to

extend credit to all sectors of the economic activity in the rural and semi-urban areas and, taking into account the area of their operation, most of their advances can be expected to be to Agriculture, small industry, including artisans and craftsmen, and small traders and for other self-employment ventures.

फर्मों और व्यक्तियों के अपने हैंलिकाप्टर

735. श्री छोटूभाई गामित: क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) ऐसे कौन-कौन से व्यक्ति और फर्मों आदि हैं, जिनके अपने हैंलिकाप्टर हैं;

(ख) क्या हैंलिकाप्टर खरीदने के लिए सरकार द्वारा लगाई गई कुछ शर्तों को पूरा करना पड़ता है; और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो तत्संबंधी व्यारा क्या है?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राष्ट्र मंत्री (श्री चन्द्रलाल चन्द्राकर): (क) अपेक्षित सूचना देने वाला एक विवरण संलग्न है।

(ख) और (ग). शर्त केवल यह है कि आवेदनकर्ता को अभीष्ट खरीद के आंचित्य के बारे में सरकार को सन्तुष्ट करना पड़ता है।

विवरण

उन व्यक्तियों तथा फर्मों के नाम तथा उत्ते जिनके अपने हैंलिकाप्टर हैं

1. सैन्ट्रल बैंक आफ इण्डिया, बम्बई एण्ड एविडिया (पी). लि., बम्बई।

2. काम्बाटा एविएशन (पी) लि., 42, क्वीन्ज रोड, बम्बई-400001।

3. एच. एस. सोभा सिंह (पी) लि., हैंगर नं. 2, जूहू एयरोड्रोम एण्ड बैंक आफ बड़ौदा पा. ओ. बाबस 347, अपोलो स्ट्रीट, बम्बई।

4. मैसर्स मानेकजी एविएशन (पी) लि., मोहता हाउस, अपोलो स्ट्रीट, बम्बई।

5. भारत कामर्स एण्ड इण्डस्ट्रीज, सूर्य किरण, 19, कस्तूरबा गांधी मार्ग, नई दिल्ली।

6. भारत कामर्स एण्ड इण्डस्ट्रीज लि., 9, फारसी चर्च स्ट्रीट, कलकत्ता।

7. मैसर्स भारत एयर, प्रोपराइट्स भारत कामर्स एण्ड इण्डस्ट्रीज, बड़े दिल्ली।

8. लेमका एविएशन (पी) लि., सीड बड़े हाउस, "एम ब्लाक", कनाट प्लैस, नई दिल्ली।

9. डेसर्स एक्स्प्रेस एविएशन (पी), लि., हैंगर 1, जूह एयरोड्रोम, बम्बई।

10. सांधी एविएशन, मैसर्स सांधी ब्राउर्स (इन्डॉर), लि., नई दिल्ली।

11. सांधी एविएशन, 7-ई, भन्डे-वालान, नई दिल्ली तथा स्टैट बैंक आफ इन्डॉर।

12. मैसर्स पृष्ठक एविएशन (पी), लि., बम्बई।

13. मैसर्स पृष्ठक एविएशन (पी), लि., मद्रास एण्ड सिंडीकेट बैंक, बम्बई।

14. बैंक आफ बडौदा, मद्रास एण्ड साउथन एविएशन (पी), लि., 68, साम्बूदास स्ट्रीट, मद्रास।

15. मैसर्स भारत एग्रो एविएशन, 5, हनुमान रोड, नई दिल्ली।

16. पंजाब स्टेट को-आपरेटिव सप्लाई एण्ड मार्केटिंग फेडरेशन, चण्डीगढ़।

17. फिलमैन एयरक्राफ्ट कं., बम्बई-400001।

18. गूनाइटेड स्प्रे सर्विसेज (पी). लि., एण्ड सिंडीकेट बैंक, नई दिल्ली।

19. मैसर्स हैगडे एविएशन, जूह एयरोड्रोम, बम्बई।

20. हैलिकाप्टर सर्विसेज लि., बम्बई।

Consultation before Importing Sugar

736. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Commerce consulted Ministry of Agriculture before importing about 2 lakh tonnes of sugar in May this year; and

(b) if so, what were the grounds for agreeing to such a proposal, that is, importing sugar after 20 years of satisfactory?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government decided to import sugar to meet persisting scarcity in domestic markets and rising price trend, arising from shortfall in sugar production this year.

Composition of Government Board of I.A. and A.I.

737. SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to include some prominent retailers and industrialists in the Governing Boards of Air India and Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, the names of such persons proposed to be included and the purpose thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b). The question of reconstitution of the Boards of Directors of

Air-India and Indian Airlines is under consideration of the Government.

Exchange of Air Services between India and China

738. SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some months back some senior officers of Air-India visited China at the invitation of the Chinese Government;

(b) if so, the extent to which the possibility of exchange of air services between the two countries has increased thereby;

(c) whether the visit has also led to some progress in the improvement of relations between the two countries; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Loan Agreement with Canada

739. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a development assistance loan agreement has been recently signed by the Governments of India and Canada; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the agreement?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BHAMOT): (a) Yes, Sir. An Agreement for a sum of Canadian dollar 25 million (Rs. 11.4

crores) was signed on 15th March, 1980 between the Governments of India and Canada.

(b) The loan was to finance Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation's on-going programmes of minor irrigation, agro-service centres, animal husbandry, forestry programmes, inland fisheries, marine fisheries benefiting small fishermen, gobar gas plants etc.

The loan is free from interest, commitment and service charges. The repayment period is 50 years including a grace period of 10 years.

Salient features of Import Policy for 1980-81

740. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state what are the salient features of the Import Policy for the year 1980-81 announced by Government recently?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): A statement is attached.

Statement

Salient Features of Import Policy for the year 1980-81

GENERAL

Reasonable restrictions have been imposed so as to reduce dependence on imports to the extent possible, thereby providing the desired protection to the indigenous industry.

2. Certain provisions have been introduced to give an impetus to export effort.

3. Transitional arrangements have been made for utilisation of licences already in operation or new licences to be issued against previous claims, in order to achieve effective implementation of the new import policy.

ACTUAL USERS (INDUSTRIAL)

4. Actual Users (Industrial) will continue to be eligible to import under Open General Licence, raw materials and components which are not banned, restricted or canalised.

5. A number of items have been taken out of the purview of Open General Licence having regard to the indigenous availability. These items include chromic acid, sodium dichromate, potassium dichromate, basic chromium sulphate, and wattle extract used in dyeing and tanning of leather, calcined petroleum coke, gum rosin, acetylene black, sisal yarn, components of process control instruments and precision measuring instruments, and certain items of drugs and drug intermediates.

6. A number of items have been included in the banned list on account of indigenous production. These items include lanolin anhydrous of non-pharmaceutical grade, A.B.S. moulding powder, caffeine and its salts, cork products, watch dials, industrial jewels, vitamin B-12, Vitamin C, polypropylene fibre glass fibre yarn/fabrics and articles made therefrom, and beta-naphthol.

7. Consumables used in the process of industrial production as are not included in the banned, restricted or canalised list, have also been allowed to be imported under Open General Licence by Actual Users (Industrial).

8. The system of issuing automatic licences for import of raw materials, components and spares will continue as in 1979-80, but the additional 10 per cent over the certified actual consumption in either of the previous two years on the basis of which the value of the automatic licence is determined, will be available only to actual users who exported at least 10 per cent of their annual production of select products.

9. The system of issuing "Repeat" licences to small scale industrial units

obtaining licences of a value not more than Rs. 50,000 will continue as in the previous period.

10. In the pharmaceutical industry, "loan licensees" approved under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, will be eligible to obtain Actual User Licences in their own name for import of raw materials required by them. Such loan licensees will also be eligible to the import under Open General Licence to meet their requirements of permissible raw materials.

11. The facility provided in 1979-80 for utilising a part of an automate licence for importing banned items will continue. The system of issue of supplementary licences will also continue.

12. New units will continue to be eligible to obtain initial licences for raw materials and components on the recommendations of their sponsoring authorities. A provision has been made that, in exceptional cases, applications for the grant of supplementary licences to such units may also be entertained.

13. In the Government sector, the facility of Open General Licence imports has been extended to Departmentally-run undertakings and Railways. They will be allowed to import raw materials, components, consumables and spares under Open General Licence on the basis of foreign exchange released to them by Government and indigenous clearance from the technical authorities in respect of the items sought to be imported. The some facility has also been extended to State Electricity Boards/Projects/ Undertakings in the public sector, for import of spares.

14. In order to make the monitoring of OGL imports more effective, it has been made incumbent on the Actual Users applying for automatic and supplementary licences, to furnish with their import applications, a declaration indicating the description of raw

materials, components and spaces, together with their cif value, imported by them under Open General Licence during the year 1979-80.

REGISTERED EXPORTERS

15. Registered Exporters will continue to have the facility of getting import replenishment licences against exports, for the import of relevant banned or canalised items and packing materials. REP licences will also continue to be freely transferable, unless they are held by export houses and used for importing OGL items for Actual Users.

16. Direct import of canalised items against REP licences will continue to be allowed as before.

17. Manufacturer-exporters have been given greater flexibility in the utilisation of import replenishment licences, for import of raw materials, components, consumables or packing materials to be used in their own factories.

18. The scheme of advance licences with benefit of customs duty exemption has been made more comprehensive, with further improvements so as to make the scheme more responsive to the needs of exporters.

19. A scheme has been introduced permitting duty-free imports of raw materials against import replenishment licences on a selective basis.

20. Import licences (without duty exemption) will also be available for all export products with suitable export obligation.

21. The criteria of issuing Export House Certificates to export houses has been rationalised. In the case of small scale units, the prescribed growth rate of 20 per cent for the purpose of granting renewal of Export House Certificate has been reduced to 10 per cent in cases where the level of exports has exceeded Rs. 1 crore in value. The policy with regard to

the import of OGL items by export houses and issue of Additional Licences to them has been liberalised. Export Houses whose annual turnover in exports is not less than Rs. 5 crores would be allowed to provide IIRMAC (Industrial Raw Material Assistance Centre) facilities to Actual Users by supplying them raw materials and components off-the-shelf against valid import licences held by such Actual Users.

IMPORT OF SPARES

22. The policy for import of spares has been further liberalised. Apart from the liberal facilities available to Actual Users for import of spares for proper maintenance of assets, provisions have also been made to grant import licences for spares for stock and sale and for the Workshops requiring spares for repair of machinery, instruments and vehicles.

CANALISATION

23. Public sector agencies will continue to play a dominant role in the import of raw materials for supplying to Actual Users. The list of canalised items has been reviewed keeping in view the objectives underlying the scheme of canalisation of imports. Certain items have been taken out of the list, while others have been included therein.

FACILITIES TO NON-RESIDENT INDIANS

24. The import policy will continue to provide special facilities to non-resident Indians returning home for settlement to set up an industry. However, with a view to safeguarding the legitimate interests of the indigenous industry, import of banned types of machinery will not normally be allowed in their case. A number of procedural improvements have also been made in the scheme.

CAPITAL GOODS

25. The list of Capital Goods allowed for import to Actual Users under

Open General Licence has been enlarged. A number of machinery items required by the Electronics industry has been included in the list.

26. Some of the items of Capital Goods have been taken out of the banned list as their indigenous production could not meet full demand. Their import will now be considered on merits subject to indigenous clearance.

27. The policy for import of capital goods against import replenishment licences has been rationalised.

IMPORTS UNDER OGL FOR STOCK AND SALE

28. New items have been added to the list of items permitted to be imported under Open General Licence for stock and sale. These include copper scrap and lead scrap.

29. The facility to import under Open General licence free of charge trade catalogues and circulars, trade samples and advertising materials continues. The facility to import under OGL goods in replacement of those previously imported but found defective or otherwise unfit for use or lost/damaged after import also continues.

Package deal with France to exploit East Coast Bauxite Deposits

741. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a package deal to exploit the east coast bauxite deposits has been concluded recently with the Government of France; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Government of India and the French Government recently

in respect of Orissa alumina/aluminium project based on the East Coast bauxite deposits. In accordance with this Memorandum a comprehensive financial package is expected to be presented shortly by the French Government. Bharat Aluminium Company is discussing with M/s. Aluminium Peshiney of France about the terms and conditions of technical collaboration for the implementation of the project.

Use of Official Banking Channels by Tax Evaders

742. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether official banking channels are being used by tax evaders, blackmarketeers to avoid detection of their malpractices;

(b) whether the income tax authorities in Bombay have come across such instances recently.

(c) what steps Government have taken, or propose to take to stop such practices forthwith; and

(d) what action has been or is being taken against those involved in the cases detected by the Income tax authorities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). The Income-tax authorities in Bombay did come across a few cases where official banking channels were being used to transmit black-money from one part of the country to another.

(c) Several steps are under contemplation of the Government. However, it is not considered in public interest to reveal the same.

(d) Investigations are in progress and necessary action as warranted by law will be taken in these cases.

Suspension of Public Distribution System

743. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Distribution System has been suspended in some urban areas and mostly in the rural areas due to non-availability of essential commodities;

(b) if so, which are the areas in these two sectors; and

(c) whether any other arrangement has been made to meet the requirements of the people in these sectors?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Setting up of Head Office of S.B.I. for North-Eastern Region

745. SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for setting up an independent Circle Head Office of the State Bank of India for the North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, whether Government are convinced of the imperative need for creation of a separate local head office of the State Bank of India to administer the bank branches in the North-Eastern Region; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken or are being taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The matter is being examined in consultation with the State Bank of India and Reserve Bank of India.

Tax deposits by Firms deducted from Salaries of Employees

746. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of companies which have not deposited the tax amount deducted at the source from the salaries of their employes for the year 1976-77;

(b) whether any action has been taken against the management of these companies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) The information available with this Ministry is in respect of cases referred by the Commissioners of Income-tax for launching prosecutions u/s 276B of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for failure of the employers to deduct tax at source from salaries or failure, after deduction, to deposit the same within the prescribed time. They pertain to defaults including those committed during the Financial year 1976-77 and were referred to this Ministry upto the Financial year 1979-80. Their names are as under:

- (1) M/s Chitram & Co. Pvt. Ltd.
- (2) M/s. Plastifoam Pvt. Ltd.
- (3) M/s. Khandelwal Harmann Electronics Ltd.
- (4) M/s. Sunways India Pvt. Ltd.
- (5) M/s. Chemida (I) Pvt. Ltd.
- (6) M/s. Pentagon Engineering Pvt. Ltd.
- (7) M/s. Darab Dubash Pvt. Ltd.
- (8) M/s. Ipcu Laboratories Ltd.
- (9) M/s. Shree Industrial Rubber Works Pvt. Ltd.
- (10) M/s. Spunpipe & Construction Co. of India Pvt. Ltd.

(11) M/s. Vithal Purushottam & Sons Pvt. Ltd.

(12) M/s. Sylvania & Laxman Pvt. Ltd.

There may be some other cases in which, interest at the prescribed rate may have been charged and other penalties imposed by the Income-tax authorities, or references for launching prosecutions have not been made so far. Information for these types of cases is not readily available in this Ministry. Its collection would involve considerable time and labour. If the Hon'ble Member desires information in respect of any particular case, the same will be collected and furnished.

(b) and (c). Prosecutions have been approved against all the companies mentioned in reply to part (a) above, except M/s. Sunways India Pvt. Ltd. in whose case the offence has been compounded.

Jute Mill Owners refusing to accept deliveries of Stocks from J.C.I.

747. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the jute mill owners are stubbornly blocking operation of Jute Corporation of India by refusing to accept deliveries of stocks from J.C.I. even though the advances made for the purpose by the public sector banking system is at subsidised rate of interest;

(b) if so, what methods are being devised by Government to defeat such attempts by the jute mill interests; and

(c) if the J.C.I. fails to clear the accumulated stocks already made, how is it going to support minimum price offer to be made in the coming jute harvest?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b).

Generally, public sector banking system does not make advances at subsidised rate of interest for purchase of jute from Jute Corporation of India. Mills are reluctant to buy from JCI at this stage, because they are holding sufficient stocks of fibre themselves. Despite this, the Corporation has been able to set 146 lakhs bales of old crop to 21 mills, and further attempts are being made to sell more stocks to them. In addition, 2.92 lakh bales have been sold to five Government taken over mills.

(c) JCI is making all efforts to dispose of accumulated stocks and also to secure additional godown space to deal with the situation.

Committee on Premium Rates of L.I.C.

748. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee appointed to study and make recommendations about premium rates and allied subjects of Life Insurance Corporation of India has presented its report;

(b) if not, when it is likely to do so;

(c) if it has been presented; what are the details of that report; and

(d) what decisions L.I.C. has taken on it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (d). The main conclusion and recommendation of the Committee of Actuaries appointed by the LIC to go into the premium rates offered by the LIC was that basic changes having taken place in the bases underlying the premium rates currently offered by the LIC it was necessary that the premium rates should be calculated on revised bases. The LIC has accepted the recommendation of the Committee

of Actuaries and has revised the premium rates with effect from 1st April, 1980. Another major recommendation of the Committee of Actuaries was that, in order to ensure more equitable distribution of surplus, LIC should pay terminal bonus to policy-holders in addition to uniform reversionary bonus which has been paid hitherto. The LIC accepted this recommendation as well and has announced its decision to pay terminal bonus, called Final (Additional) Bonus, under policies becoming claims by death or maturity during the period 1st January, 1980 to 31st December, 1981, provided the policies have remained on the books for at least 15 years.

Demanding of Security on Loans by Banks in West Bengal

749. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOU-DHURY: Will the Minister of FIN-
ANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the banks are demanding security even for loans below Rs. 2500/- in West Bengal;

(b) if so, why;

(c) whether government have issued any circular to the Banks in West Bengal not to demand any security from unemployed youths for loans up to Rs. 2500/-;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Normally, for loans of less than Rs. 2500 granted as crop loans or as loans for creation/purchase of moveable assets, the public sector banks do not ask for security other than the personal security of the borrower and the hypothecation of the crops/moveable assets created out of the loan amount. No specific complaint about the banks operating in

West Bengal has been received by the Government in this regard.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

Meeting of State Chief Secretaries, Home Secretaries and Police Chiefs held in Delhi

750. SHRI JHARKHANDE RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUP-
PLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Secretaries, Home Secretaries and Police Chiefs of various States, who met in Delhi on 3rd April, 1980, suggested the re-introduction of display of sale prices of various commodities by the shop-keepers;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) action/decision taken thereon?

**THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUP-
PLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA):** (a) to (c). Price Display Orders issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 are already in force in all the States and Union Territories. In the Conference of Chief Secretaries, Home Secretaries and Inspectors General of Police held in April last, the need for effective implementation of these display orders by States and Union Territories was emphasised.

Rise in Prices of Grocery, Toiletry and other items

751. SHRI AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:

SHRI R. L. P. VERMA:

**SHRI CHANDRADEO PRA-
SAD VERMA:**

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUP-
PLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp increase in the prices of grocery and toiletry items like soaps, shampoos, tooth pastes, detergents, oils, pulses and milk foods during the last 2-3

months as compared to the years 1977, 1978 and 1979;

(b) whether some multinationals producing these items are responsible for this spurt; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken to curb the price rise so as to bring it within the reach of poormen?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) and (b). During the last three months (March-May, 1980), the wholesale price indices for detergents, tooth paste and processed milk have remained generally steady whilst in the earlier years their indices have either remained steady or have gone up. However, the wholesale price period has edible oils during the same period has gone up by 1.7 per cent which is less than the increase of 11.5 per cent during the corresponding period in 1979 but more than the increase in 1978. In 1977 there was a marginal fall in indices of edible oil during the reference period. In the case of pulses the increase (8.5 per cent which is less than the indices during the last three months of the current year has been higher than the increases that have taken place in earlier years.

The index for soap during the past three months has moved up by 7.4 per cent and is higher than the increases that have taken place in earlier years.

Edible oils are produced by very large number of units in the country, both in the organised and unorganised sectors and the share of multinational corporations would be very small in the total production. Soaps are being produced both in the large as well as small scale sectors. The role of multinationals in the price increase of soaps will be looked into. The wholesale price index for shampoos is not available.

(c) Efforts are being made to increase the production of oilseeds and

pulses. Import of edible oils is being continued and during the first seven months of the current oil year (Nov. 1979-May. 1980) about 1.60 lakh tonnes of imported edible oils have been released to the States for distribution through the public distribution system. The import of pulses continues to be under Open General Licence.

The State Governments have been requested from time to time to enforce the various provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the orders issued thereunder including Pulses, Edible Oilseeds and Edible Oils (Storage Control) Order, 1977, vigorously. Similarly they have also been asked to implement the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.

उचित दर दूकानों पर आवश्यक पदार्थों की सप्लाई

752. श्री भूस चन्द डामा: क्या नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में समाज के सबसे कमज़ोर वर्गों को उचित मूल्यों पर आवश्यक पदार्थों की ठीक समय पर सप्लाई को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कारोबार योजना तैयार की है और यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी व्यौरा क्या है; और

(ब) यदि इस प्रकार की कारोबार योजना तैयार नहीं की गई है तो इसके कर्बी तक तैयार किए जाने की आशा है और सरकार कद तक समाज के सबसे कमज़ोर वर्ग को यह लाभ मुहूर्या करवाने की स्थिति में होगी।

नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री (श्री विद्याधर शर्मा): (क) सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली इस देश में लक्ष्य तीन दशकों से कार्य कर रही है। इस प्रणाली की राज्य सरकारों, सम्बन्धित मंत्रालयों और भारत सरकार के अधिकरणों के परसंरक्षण से निस्तर एवं एकात्मक की जाती है। इस प्रणाली का उद्देश्य, ग्रामीण

तथा शहरी क्षेत्रों में रहने वाले समाज के कम-जारे वर्षों को अपने अन्तर्गत लाने का है। देश में, इस सम्य विद्यमान सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के तहत शहरी और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में स्थित 2,47,470 बिक्री केन्द्रों के माध्यम से आम तौर पर खाद्यान्नों, चीनी, खाद्य तेलों, नियंत्रित कपड़ों तथा मिट्टी के तेल का वितरण किया जाता है। सरकार देश में इस प्रणाली को सुइड़ बनाने तथा इसे पुनर्जीवित करने के लिए सभी प्रयास कर रही है।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

दिव्यज्ञों से प्राप्त ऋण में से माल का खरीदा जाना

753. श्री भूल चन्द डागा: क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) उन देशों के नाम क्या हैं जो भारत को इस शर्त पर ऋण देते हैं कि वह इस ऋण से उस देश से माल खरीदेगा;

(ख) क्या इन वस्तुओं को उस समय विद्यमान अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मूल्यों से डेढ़ अधिक दो गुने मूल्यों पर माल खरीदा जाता है;

(ग) क्या ऐसा इस कारण से है कि सार्वजनिक उपकरणों में पूँजी निवेश तथा सामान्य लागत अपेक्षाकृत अधिक है जिसमें उनमें आठा होता है; और

(घ) यदि हाँ, तो यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कि उस कारण घाटा न होकर सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री मान भाई बरोदा): (क) जो देश इस शर्त से बधौं हुए ऋण देते हैं कि वस्तुएं तत्संबंधी देशों से मंगानी होंगी वे देश आस्ट्रिया, बोल्झियम, कनाडा, चेकोस्लोवाकिया, डेनमार्क, फ्रांस, इटली और सोवियत समाजवादी जनतंत्र संघ हैं। संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका की दशा में ऐसा प्रतिबंध थोड़े से भागों में ही लगाया गया था।

(ख) ची, नहीं।

(ग) और (घ) ये प्रश्न उपस्थित नहीं होते।

सीमाशुल्क अधिकारियों द्वारा चांदी का जब्त किया जाना

754. श्री भूल चन्द डागा: क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) सीमाशुल्क अधिकारियों द्वारा गत 6 महीमों में भारत से बाहर तस्करी को जा रही कितनी चांदी जब्त की और उसका मूल्य क्या है;

(ख) चांदी की भारत से बाहर तस्करी को रोकने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं; और

(ग) चांदी के बदले में भारत में तस्करी से लाई जा रही वस्तुओं का द्वेरा क्या है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री मगन भाई बरोदा): (क) दिसम्बर, 1979 से मई, 1980 तक की अवधि के दौरान सीमाशुल्क अधिकारियों ने भारत से तस्कर निर्यात की जा रही लगभग 7.27 करोड़ रुपये मूल्य की कुल लगभग 22.57 मीट्रिक टन चांदी पकड़ी।

(ख) भारत से चांदी का तस्कर-निर्धात रोकने के लिए, तस्करी के लिए सुगम सभी क्षेत्रों में, जिनमें हवाई अड्डे भारत का पश्चिमी समुद्रतट और भू-सीमाएं शामिल हैं, तस्करी निवारक कारोबाहिण तें नर दी गई हैं। सीमाशुल्क अधिनियम 1962 के अध्याय 4-स के उपबन्धों में निहित, चांदी रखने, लाने ले जाने और बेचने संबंधी नियमक उपबन्धों को, जो पश्चिमी समुद्र-टट और तमिलनाडु तथा पाइन्डियरी थे समुद्रतट के साथ साथ 50 किलोमीटर की पट्टी पर पहले ही लागू थे। अब 27 मार्च, 1980 से भारत-पाकिस्तान और भारत-नेपाल सीमाओं के साथ-साथ 50 किलोमीटर की पट्टी पर भी लागू कर दिया गया है।

(ग) सरकार को मिली रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, देश में चोरी-छिपे लायी जाने वाली मूल्य मद्दे ये हैं:-- कलाई घड़ियां, संश्लिष्ट वस्त्र और इलेक्ट्रोनिकीय माल।

Foreign Debt

755. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total foreign debt India owes to the different countries as on the 31st December, 1979 and how much of it is repayable in Indian Rupee;

(b) the interest accruing every year on the amount repayable in Rupee and the steps taken to ensure the utilization of this money by the countries concerned in accordance with the rules and regulations of country,

(c) whether Government have looked into the allegations of use of this money by the countries concerned for political purposes in India, and

(d) whether Government propose to bring in measures to make it obligatory on the part of those countries to invest the surplus money in such public agencies as the Unit Trust of India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) The total foreign debt liability of India to different countries as on the 31st December, 1979 amounted to Rs. 8,425.76 crores, out of which Rs. 229.47 crores is repayable in Indian Rupees to USSR and other East European countries viz.. Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia.

(b) The interest payments in respect of loans repayable in Rupees during 1980-81 are estimated at Rs. 5.84 crores.

Repayment of credits from the USSR and East European countries as well as payments of interest thereon are credited to the Special or Central Accounts maintained with the Reserve Bank of India by the country concerned which are utilised only in accordance with the Trade and Payments Agreement in force between these countries and India.

(c) No such allegations have been brought to the notice of the Government in the recent years.

(d) The Trade and Payments Agreements entered into with the USSR and other East European countries generally stipulate that any surplus in the Rupee accounts maintained by these countries in India can be transferred to the Government of India as a deposit or invested in the Government of India Treasury Bills. There is no proposal regarding investment by these countries of their surplus money in public agencies like the Unit Trust of India.

Proposal to amend Income Tax Act

756. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal under consideration for amending the Income Tax Act to empower the tax authorities to enter and survey posh residential premises; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

Poor response from jute industry to Soft Loan Scheme

757. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the response from the jute industry to the soft-loan-scheme offered by the financial institutions for modernisation and renovation of jute mills is very poor; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction to their attitude?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). It is a fact that the utilisation of soft-loan-scheme for modernisation and renovation of jute mills is not upto the desired level.

47 Jute mills had applied for assistance under the soft-loan-scheme. 11 of them withdrew their applications. Out of the remaining, 20 units were sanctioned loans to the extent of Rs. 39.19 crores. The cases in regard to remaining 16 are pending due to non-receipt of certain information from them.

The difficulties experienced by the industry in availing of this facility are kept under constant review. It is hoped that the Jute industry will improve their utilisation of the facilities available under this scheme.

Compensatory Allowance to Central Government employees in hill States

758. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the resentment among the Central Government employees who are not getting adequate compensatory allowance in hill States like Himachal Pradesh at par with the State Government employees as it is linked with the height of the place concerned and not with its remoteness or the costliness;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any representations in this regard from the Central Government employees or other individuals/associations for giving them hill compensatory allowance at par with the allowance received by the State Government employees;

(c) whether any decision has been taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the likely date by which a decision would be taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (d). Central Government employees posted in different areas of hill States like Himachal Pradesh are granted either hill compensatory allowance or special compensatory (remote locality) allowance. The former allowance is granted with reference to the height of the place and the latter on the basis of remoteness of the region. The rates of these allowances are different from those of similar allowances allowed by the State Government to its employees. Representations have been received from the Central Government employees in Himachal Pradesh that they may be allowed the above allowances at the rates at which these are applicable to State Government employees. Since the Central Government has its own pattern of pay and allowances, it has not been possible to accept the demand of the employees.

अभूक व्यापार निगम गिरिडीह में आग लगना

759. श्री रोत लाल प्रसाद बर्मा: क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अभूक व्यापार निगम के गिरिडीह स्टोर में 1979 में आग लग गई थी और आग में 15 लाख रुपये का अभूक नष्ट हो गया था;

(ख) क्या मरम्मत के नाम पर हजारों रुपयों का दो बार दुर्विनियोग किया गया है;

(ग) क्या अभूक-असाध्य खनिज है; और

(घ) यदि उपरोक्त घटना के बारे में कोई जांच नहीं की गई है तो क्या सरकार का विचार दोषी अधिकारियों को दंडित करने के लिए एक उच्च स्तरीय जांच कराने का है ताकि निगम भविष्य में ऐसे घटालों से बच सके?

वार्षिक तथा इस्पात व लान मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुद्दोँ): (क) जी हाँ। अभूक व्यापार निगम के गिरिडोह स्थित गोदामों में से एक में 29/30 जनवरी, 1979 की रात को बाण लगी और लगभग 22 लाख रु. मूल्य के 7.491 मे. टन अभूक पर इसका प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ा।

• (ख) जी नहीं।

(ग) यह केवल 600 डिग्री सैन्टीग्रेड के तापमान तक ही असाध्य बनिज है। इसके बलभार, आग से निश्चय ही वर्गीलटी पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ता है जिसके फलस्वरूप अभूक के बास्तविक मूल्य में काफी हाँन होती है।

(घ) गिरिडोह के उपायुक्त तथा पुलिस वर्धीज़ेक और साथ ही धनबाद स्थित अग्रिम चालन विभाग वार कलकत्ता स्थित न्यू इंडिया एस्ट्रेटरेस कम्पनी द्वारा जांच-पड़ताल की जारी है। सर्वसम्मति से यह निष्कर्ष निकाला गया कि आग लगने का सार्वाधिक संभावित कारण बिजली शार्ट सर्किट होना था। बीमा कम्पनी ने क्षतिप्रस्त अभूक के संबंध में पूर्ण रूप में दावे का निपटान कर दिया है।

Decline in export of canned shrimps

760. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian canned shrimps have been virtually edged out from European markets;

(b) if so, the details of the yearly export earnings from the canned shrimps and quantity exported during the last three years;

(c) whether the uncompetitive prices has been the reason for the low export of canned shrimps; and

(d) if so, the reasons for charging high prices and steps being taken to reduce the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

Exports of canned shrimp effected from India to all destinations and the exports to European Markets during the last three years were as under:

Year	Total Export		Exports to European Markets	
	Qty. (M.T.)	Value (Rs. lakhs)	Qty.	Value
1977-78	•	129	56.70	108
1978-79	•	197	87.85	179
1979-80	•	231	113.05	218
				105.57

(c) India faces a severe competition from Malaysia and Pakistan in the European Markets for canned shrimps. Moreover, in view of the good demand for frozen shrimps and attractive prices, shrimps and attractive diverted for freezing.

(d) One of the important factors contributing to high cost of canned shrimps is the high cost of cans in

the country. In order to make the product competitive in the world market, Government grants cash compensatory support on the export of canned shrimp at the rate of 7.5 percent of FOB value for North/South America and Caribbean countries, and 5 per cent of FOB value in the case of other destinations. Moreover, Import replenishment at the rate of

10 per cent is also allowed for import of tin plate prime OTS quality/OTS cans against export of canned shrimps.

Development Corporation for Handicrafts Textiles

761. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to set up a Development Corporation for Handicrafts Textiles; and

(b) if so, the details and functions envisaged for the proposed Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Import of synthetic rubber

762. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed import of synthetic rubber;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are aware that this would hit the small rubber growers in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). As per the import policy for 1980-81, synthetic rubber except butyl rubber, neoprene/chloroprene, V. P. Latex, Hypalon, viton, PTFE and E.P.D.M. is included in the list of restricted items. Import of excepted items of synthetic rubber is allowed to be made by actual users (Industrial) under open general licence subject to the conditions laid down. While formulating the import policy

for synthetic rubber, the gap between the demand and indigenous availability is taken into account.

(c) For many items produced by the rubber goods industry, synthetic rubber cannot be replaced by natural rubber. Hence, the import of synthetic rubber would not hit the small rubber growers in Kerala.

Guidelines to bring about restraint on money supply

763. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration any proposal for framing specific guidelines designed to bring about restraint on money supply through proper credit control;

(b) if so, whether any such guidelines have since been framed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (c). Guidelines to the commercial banks have been issued by the Reserve Bank from time to time with a view to restraining credit expansion. In March 1980, the banks have been advised to ensure that the expansion of their non-food credit during the 15 months' period ending June 1980 does not exceed the absolute expansion of similar credit during the corresponding 15 months' period ending June 1979. Other measures taken by the Reserve Bank for restraining credit expansion have included stepping up of statutory liquidity ratio in December 1978, progressive reduction in the extent of refinance facilities available to the banks, limiting their recourse to participation certificates, stipulating in respect of large borrowers, an effective drawing power to 80 per cent of their peak level drawings during the previous two years and stipulation of higher lending rates to promote better management of borrowed funds by the borrowers.

Formulation of Jute policy

764. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a comprehensive jute policy; and

(b) if so, whether Government are in a position to indicate the thrust of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is too early a stage to make a statement on this subject.

"Statistics of R.B.I. outdated"

765. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FIN-ANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Statistics of R.B.I. outdated" published in the 'Economic Times' (New Delhi Edition) of 23rd May, 1980;

(b) whether any enquiry has been instituted as to the causes of delayed publication of the half-yealy 'Banking Statistics' of period ending December 1977 on 15th March, 1980;

(c) if so, what are the reasons which led to the delayed printing of the said publication; and

(d) what steps have been taken to ensure that these publications are printed in time and whether any time-limit has been fixed to publish without further delay the Banking Statistics pertaining to the subsequent half-yealy issues of 1978 and 1979?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Reserve Bank of India have reported that the main reason for delays in the publication

of banking statistics is the late receipt of returns from some of the over 30,000 branches which are required to submit these returns. In order to ensure adequate coverage, most of the defaulting branches have to be approached individually involving considerable time and effort. The scrutiny, editing and processing of such a voluminous data and printing of the brochures also take considerable time. Steps have, however, been taken by the Reserve Bank recently to reduce the time lag in the scrutiny and processing of data in the Bank. Measures have also been taken for cutting down the time taken by the branches in the submission of the returns. The statistical data for June 1978 and December 1978 are expected to be released by the Reserve Bank within the next 3-4 months.

Firm commitments from Singapore firms for importing traditional and non-traditional items

766. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received firm commitments from Singapore firms for importing a wide range of traditional and non-traditional items; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Decline in production of equal and unequal angles and channels

767. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the decline in the production of unequal angles, equal angles and channels by

steel industry has caused bottlenecks in railway wagon production; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to maximise production of these items?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Despite lower production of saleable steel in the main steel plants due to constraints on the availability of essential inputs, 66,800 tonnes of Structural, including Angles and Channels, were supplied in 1979-80 to Railway Workshops and Wagon Builders compared to only 50,000 tonnes in 1978-79. The supply also compares favourably with the commitment of 67,300 tonnes.

Subject to availability of essential inputs like power and coal, it is proposed to substantially increase the production of angles (both equal and unequal) and channels during the year 1980-81, as compared to the previous year.

Closure of Alloy Steel Plants in Durgapur

768. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge accumulation of stainless steel worth several crores had led to the closure of Alloy Steel Plant in Durgapur; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

मैसर्स नलीकूल प्राइवेट लि.,, कलकत्ता

769. श्री निहाल सिंह: क्या वित्त मंत्री मैसर्स नलीकूल प्राइवेट लि.,, हुगली, कलकत्ता पर मारे गये छापे के बारे में

30 मार्च 1979 के बतारांकित प्रश्न, संख्या 5518 के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या उक्त प्रश्न के भाग (ख) और (ग) में मांगी गई अपेक्षित जानकारी इस बीच एकत्र कर ली गई है और यदि हाँ, तो उसका व्यौरा क्या है और जांच कार्य पूरा करने में क्या कठिनाइयां आ रही हैं; और

(ख) मैसर्स नलीकूल प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, हुगली पर केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क के रूप में कितनी राशि बकाया है और यह राशि बसल करने के लिए क्या कार्यवाही की गई है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री अग्नभृत बराह): (क) जांच को पूरा करने में कोई अड़चन नहीं आ रही है। कर निधारण वर्ष 1977-78 से सम्बन्धित मामला समझौता आयोग के पास निर्णय के लिये विचाराधीन है।

(ख) मैसर्स नलीकूल प्रा. लि. कलकत्ता की तरफ केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क की कोई रकम बकाया नहीं है।

Imported edible Oils given to West Bengal State

770. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of imported edible oils given to West Bengal State by the Central Government in view of coming festival season;

(b) whether all States have been asked to take delivery from the State Trading Corporation of India;

(c) if so, when it will be available to consumers in the market; and

(d) whether the prices of these imported edible oils will be less than those of other edible oils manufactured in India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) to (d). In the context of the demand

for imported edible oils indicated by West Bengal Government, an allocation of 5,000 tonnes of refined Rapeseed oil and 2,000 tonnes of RBD Palmoil is presently being made every month for West Bengal. This would be continued in the coming festival months also. The imports of edible oils meant for Public Distribution are being made by the State Trading Corporation of India (STC) and thus, the various States which are lifting these oils for public distribution are required to take their deliveries from the STC. The various State Governments have been advised to lift the imported oils allocated to them every month, from the STC for issue to the consumers through the Public Distribution System, and this is a continuous process. Insofar as the issue prices of imported oils sold through the Public Distribution System are concerned, they are fixed at a fair and reasonable level, and are presently less than the prices of edible oils produced indigenously.

Supply of newsprint to Newspapers

771. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Newspapers are not getting the adequate supply of paper (Newsprint) by the State Trading Corporation;

(b) whether any complaint has been received or noticed by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to meet the supply of newsprint to the Newspapers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The STC arranges import of newsprint based on forecast of demand made by Registrar of Newspapers. So far the import has been adequate to meet the demand.

(b) and (c). During 1979, however, there was port congestion at all major Indian ports as a result of which there was a reluctance on the part of shipping lines including National Lines to lift newsprint cargo to India. Even after arrival of vessels at times there were waiting period of 30—40 days. One of the suppliers mill was closed due to strike which lasted 7 months. In view of these facts it is possible that in some cases there may have been delay in arrival of newsprint. However, STC maintains buffer stock to meet such contingencies from which newspapers can lift their requirement within their entitlement.

आल इण्डिया एल्यूमिनियम वार्कर्स फेडरेशन से ज्ञापन

772. श्री रामावतार शास्त्री: क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

इण्डिया एल्यूमिनियम वार्कर्स फेडरेशन ने सरकार को ज्ञापन दिया है; और

(ल) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी व्यापर क्या है और उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

वाणिज्य तथा इस्पात और खान मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी): (क) जी हां।

(ल) ज्ञापन में निम्नलिखित बातें हैं:-

(1) सरकार द्वारा सरकारी तथा गैर-उत्पादकों को ग्रहीत एल्यूमिनियम उत्पादकों को ग्रहीत विजली-घरों की स्थापना की अनुमति दे दी जाए। नए एल्यूमिनियम कारखानों की योजना बनाते समय ग्रहीत विजली उत्पादन का प्रावधान किया जाए।

(2) गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र के वर्तमान एल्यूमिनियम कारखानों का राष्ट्रीयकरण कर दिया जाए तथा सम्बन्धी एल्यूमिनियम उद्योग सरकारी क्षेत्र में हो। सरकारी

क्षेत्र के कारखानों के प्रबंध को लोक-तांत्रिक बनाया जाए ताकि उनके प्रबंध में कामगार भी पूरी तरह भागीदार हो सकें।

(3) एल्यूमिनियम की दोहरी मूल्य-निर्धारण नीति समाप्त की जाए।

(4) एल्यूमिनियम उद्योग के मजूरी दांचे में संधार किया जाए और उसे इस्पात उद्योग के अनुरूप बनाया जाए। इस प्रयोजन के लिए सरकार द्वारा प्रबंधकों और कामगारों के प्रतिनिधियों की एक बैठक बुलाई जाए।

(5) बिजली सप्लाई की कटौती के कारण उत्पादन में कमी होने पर कामगारों को प्रोत्साहनों सहित पूरी मजूरी की गारण्टी दी जाए।

सरकार की क्रम-वार प्रतिक्रिया इस प्रकार :

(1) सरकार ने हिंडालको के ग्रहीत बिजली घर के विस्तार की मंजूरी दे दी है। अन्य एल्यूमिनियम उत्पादकों से ग्रहीत बिजली-घरों की स्थापना होते कोई आवेदन प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है। उड़ीसा में सरकारी क्षेत्र में प्रस्तावित एल्यूमिनियम कम्पलैक्स को योजना में एक ग्रहीत बिजली घर का प्रावधान है।

(2) परिस्थितियोंवश जरूरत होने पर एल्यूमिनियम कारखानों के राष्ट्रीय-करण पर विचार किया जाएगा। कारखाना-प्रबंध में नियमों की भागीदारी के बारे में सरकार द्वारा किए गए नीति संबंधी निर्णय को एल्यूमिनियम उद्योग पर भी लागू किया जाएगा।

(3) एल्यूमिनियम की दोहरी मूल्य नीति अक्टूबर, 1978 से समाप्त कर दी गई है।

(4) और (5) के बारे में यह उद्योग सरकारी और गैर-सरकारी दोनों ही क्षेत्रों में है और अधिकतर उत्पादन गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र में होता है तथा कंपनियां, भिन्न-भिन्न वित्तीय क्षमताओं सहित, काफी भिन्न हालतों में काम करती हैं, इसलिए इन सुझावों को स्वीकार करना या कार्य-निर्णय लिए जाने की आशा है।

वर्तमान कर प्रणाली का पुनरीक्षण

773. श्री रामावतार शास्त्री:

श्री पीयूष तिरकी:

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने वर्तमान कर प्रणाली का पुनरीक्षण करने का निर्णय किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) तत्संबंधी व्यापार क्या है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में उष-मंत्री (श्री भगवन्भाई बराट): (क) सरकार, कर पद्धति की सतत समीक्षा करती रहती है।

(ख) तथा (ग). ये प्रश्ना नहीं उठते।

भारत के साथ उद्योग और व्यापार सहयोग के विस्तार के लिए पैकेज कार्यक्रम के संबंध में प्रांत का प्रस्ताव

774. श्री नन्द किशोर शर्मा: क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यहबताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या प्रांत सरकार ने भारत के साथ उद्योग और व्यापार सहयोग के विस्तार के लिए पैकेज कार्यक्रम सम्बन्धी प्रस्ताव किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसकी प्रमुख बातें क्या हैं;

(ग) क्या भारत सरकार इस कार्यक्रम के बारे में विचार कर रही है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में कब तक निर्णय लिए जाने की आशा है?

वाणिज्य तथा इस्पात और खान मंत्री (श्री प्रणब नवाचारी): (क) से (घ). प्रांतीसी सरकार ने आवृद्धियोगिक और व्यापार सहयोग के लिए निम्नलिखित प्रस्तावों की पेशकश की है। संबंधत मंत्रालय/विभाग इन प्रस्तावों की

जांच कर रहे हैं/उन पर विचार कर रहे हैं:—

1. फ्रांसीसी सरकार की सहायता से उड़ीसा में अल्मीनियम काम्पलेक्स की स्थापना/फ्रांसीसी सरकार ने भारत सरकार को व्यापक वित्तीय सुविधाएं देने की पेशकश की है। खान विभाग/आर्थिक विभाग उसकी प्रतीक्षा कर रहे हैं।

2. फ्रांस की सहायता से नन्दीरा और गोडी-ए खानों के विकास के लिए फ्रांस ने विशिष्ट प्रस्ताव की पेशकश की है। कोल इंडिया लमटड और कोयला विभाग उस प्रस्ताव पर वचार कर रहे हैं जिसमें विस्तृत सम्भाव्यता रिपोर्ट का तैयार किया जाना और परियोजना के लिए वित्तीय सुविधाओं को अनित्य रूप दिया जाना शामिल है।

3. कृषि और ग्रामीण विकास के क्षेत्र में, जिसमें राजस्थान नहर, बुन्देलखण्ड, करेल के बांधे किनारे से संबंधित एकीकृत विकास परियोजनाएं शामिल हैं, सहयोग के लिए फ्रांस के प्रस्ताव पर कृषि मंत्रालय फ्रांस की ओर आगे प्रतीक्षिया के बारे में प्रतीक्षा कर रहा है।

4. फ्रांस ने इलैक्ट्रोनिक स्पिचिंग के क्षेत्र में सहयोग के प्रस्तावों की पेशकश की और हाल ही में उसने 5,00,000 लाइनों के कारखाने की स्थापना के लिए एक प्रस्ताव की पेशकश की है। संचार मंत्रालय उन पर विचार कर रहा है।

5. टेलीटैक्स सिस्टम एन्टीओप के और भारतीय टी. वी. व्यवस्था को रंगीन बनाने की सम्भाव्यता के लिए एस. ई. सी. ए. एम. प्रणाली के भारत में प्रदर्शन के लिए फ्रांस के प्रस्ताव पर सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय विचार कर रहा है।

6. फ्रांस ने बल्ब टाइप जल विद्युत एककों के क्षेत्र सहयोग का प्रस्ताव किया हाल ही में ज्वार बिजली उत्पादन के क्षेत्र में फ्रांस को सहायता करें सहयोग के एक सम्भाव्य क्षेत्र के रूप में अभिज्ञात किया गया है।

7. नवीकरण योग्य उर्जा के क्षेत्र में खास तौर से सी पम्प टर्बाइनों जैसे उपस्कर के तथा सार तापीय प्रयोग के लिए सहायक उपस्करों के आदान प्रदान के संबंध में फ्रांस के प्रस्ताव के संदर्भ में विचार विभर्ष होता है।

8. भारी उद्योग विभाग को फ्रांस से मोटर गाड़ियों के क्षेत्र में सहयोग के लिए कुछ प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुए हैं इसका पुनरीक्षण उस विभाग द्वारा किया जाएगा। हाल ही में मैसर्ज महेन्द्रा एण्ड महेन्द्रा की जीपौं में लगाए जाने के लिए डीजल इंजनों के उत्पादन के लिए उस फर्म को फ्रांस के मैसर्ज पिगोट के साथ सहयोग करने की अनुमति दी गई है।

भारत और बुल्गारिया के बीच व्यापार और आर्थिक सहयोग का विकास

775. श्री नन्द किशोर शर्मा: क्या बाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या उनके तथा बुल्गारिया के मंत्री के बीच हाल ही की बातचीत में भारत और बुल्गारिया के बीच दोषावधि आधार पर व्यापार तथा आर्थिक सहयोग के विकास के सम्बन्ध में बातचीत की गई थी; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी मुख्य बातें क्या हैं?

बाणिज्य तथा इस्पात और खान मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुख्यमंत्री): (क) तथा (ख). 22 अप्रैल, 1980 को बुल्गारिया विदेश व्यापार के प्रथम उप मंत्री से दोषावधि आधार पर भारत-बुल्गारिया व्यापार तथा बाणिज्यिक सम्बन्धों के विस्तार तथा विविधकरण के बारे में सामान्य बातचीत की। उन्होंने, विशेषरूप से भारत अर्थ मूवर्स द्वारा उत्पादित अर्थ मूविंग उपस्कर तथा भारत से लाहौ अयस्क की पर्याप्त मात्रा में खरीदारी करने में अपने देश की तीव्र रूचि दर्शाई। यह बात भी उनके ध्यान में लाई गई कि चूंकि भारत ने एक व्यापक अद्योगिक आधार विकसित कर लिया है इसलिए यह बुल्गारिया के मध्यीनी अजिंक, मेटल वर्किंग मध्यीनों, इलैक्ट्रोनिक संघटक तथा उपस्कर बार बन्ध विभिन्न इंजीनियरी मदों जैसे जटिल उत्पाद भी सप्लाई कर सकता है।

Decline in Exports during 1979-80

776. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the first seven months of 1979-80 the export registered a steep decline of 25 per cent and if so, which are the commodities that contributed to this shortfall;

(b) the reasons for the same; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take for sustaining the exports of our country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKERJEE): (a) and (b) According to provisional data India's overall exports during April-October 1979 amounted to Rs. 3371.70 crores. This was higher as compared to the provisional figure of Rs. 2970.72 crores and revised figure of Rs. 3217.20 crores for the corresponding seven months of the previous year 1978.

(c) Government is taking possible measures to identify and remove constraints in export production, so as to boost exports. The Import Policy for the current financial year 1980-81, which was announced on 15th April, 1980 has been given export orientation. In order to help exports the policy contains the following features:

(i) Manufacturer-exporters will have a wider choice than before for the import of items against their replenishment licences.

(ii) The scheme for the grant of advance licences with benefit of duty exemption has been made more wider in scope than before.

(iii) A scheme has been introduced to allow duty free imports against replenishment licences. To begin with, the scheme is applicable to a few export products only.

(iv) The import policy for Export Houses has been liberalised to

enable Export Houses to render greater assistance to their supporting manufactures in the supply of imported inputs.

(v) Manufacturer-Exporters exporting 10 per cent or more of their production will be given automatic licences as Actual Users for import of raw materials and components for a value 10 per cent higher than their actual consumption.

Export-Import Bank

777. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an Export-Import Bank for providing clearance and giving relatively long-term credits to the potential buyers of capital goods and turnkey projects from India; and

(b) if so, the details?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Exemptions to Goldsmiths from Section 30 of Gold Control Act

778. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the goldsmiths have been exempted from the operation of Section 30 of the Gold Control Act and rule 13(E) regarding stamping and melting of purity of gold in the bill and voucher respectively; and

(b) if so, whether the licensed jewellers who do not make jewellery but who are asked to give guarantee about the purity of gold are also proposed to be exempted from the above provisions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Section

30 of the Gold (Control) Act, 1968, which requires every licensed gold dealer to stamp every piece of article or ornament certifying the purity of the gold and rule 13 of the Gold Control (Forms, Fees and Miscellaneous Matters) Rules, 1968 do not apply to certified goldsmiths.

(b) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to exempt any class of licensed dealers from the above mentioned provisions.

Central Control Room to Monitor Prices of Commodities

779. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central control room is being established by the Union Government to monitor the prices of certain commodities; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the move of Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes, Sir. A Central Control Room is functioning from the end of April, 1980.

(b) The Central Control Room collects data on the availability and price trends for select commodities like wheat, rice, sugar, edible oils, kerosene, diesel, salt and soft coke, and helps consolidate the data for monitoring. It also liaises with the State Governments and the concerned administrative ministries responsible for taking appropriate action regarding availability and prices.

Slash in Quota of Essential Commodities for West Bengal

780. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quota allotted to the West Bengal Government in re-

pect of sugar, diesel, cement, kerosene has been slashed since January, 1980 causing widespread hardship to the people of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to ease the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) and (b). The information is being collected from the concerned Departments and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Bringing of more Weaker Sections within Credit Plan of Nationalised Banks .

781. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of Government to bring more weaker sections within the credit plan of the nationalised banks; and

(b) if so, what are the schemes therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). All weaker sections of the community are already within the ambit of public sector banks' lending operations. The banks have, however, been advised to raise the proportion of priority sector credit to their aggregate credit to the level of 40 per cent by 1985 and to ensure that a significant proportion of such enlarged credit flows to the beneficiaries of the 20-Point Programme. To achieve this objective the banks are expected to draw up specific schemes suited to the local requirements in each district and directed towards the target groups and include them in the District Credit Plans for joint implementation.

Demand of Stainless Steel

782. SHRI AHMED M. PATEL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total demand of stainless steel in the country annually;

(b) the total production in private and public sectors annually; and

(c) if the production is less than the demand the measures taken by Government to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKERJEE): (a) to (c). The working group on Alloy and Special Steels set up by the Department of Steel, in its report dated February 15, 1979, projected estimated demand of 49,000 tonnes for 1980-81 as against estimated production of 25,000 tonnes during the year. Precise estimate of the production by the re-rollers, most of whom are in the small scale sector, are however not available. The import policy provides for import of stainless steel by the canalising agencies, namely SAIL and MMTC, and also by the Actual Users engaged in production of stainless steel razor blades.

Withholding of Stocks of Imported Rubber by STC and Proper Distribution of Rubber

783. SHRI M. RAMGOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that All India Rubber Industries Association had blamed the S.T.C. for withholding stocks of imported rubber and mismanagement of the distribution of rubber; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKERJEE): (a) and (b).

No, Sir. The Association had, however, *inter-alia* represented about the timing of imports by STC, shortages in weight, inadequate facilities at the distribution point and high carrying and other incidental costs charged by S.T.C.

Discontentment among Senior Operational Staff of I.A.

784. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DAN-DAVATE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a serious discontentment among the senior operational staff of the Indian Airlines;

(b) whether there have been a number of reversions of senior staff; and

(c) what are the reasons for reversion and supersession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). There has been only one case where the probation of a senior officer was terminated and he was reverted to his substantive position due to unsatisfactory performance during his period of probation in Indian Airlines.

Committee for Reappraisal of Public Distribution System

785. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DAN-DAVATE: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to appoint a Committee for the reappraisal of the public distribution system;

(b) whether the cooperation of the Cooperatives, Women's Organisations and others has been sought; and

(c) if not, what other steps have been taken to streamline the public distribution system?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The cooperatives are extensively used for the public distribution system. The State Governments have been advised to set up Advisory Committees at various levels associating representatives of consumer and women's organisations to supervise the public distribution system.

(c) The public distribution system in the country is under constant review in consultation with the State Governments and the concerned Departments and agencies of the Central Government. As a result of these reviews, considerable improvement has been effected in the supply of essential commodities to the States. The State Governments have also taken necessary steps to strengthen the infrastructure to expand and revitalise the public distribution system.

Tightening of Credit Squeeze to Check Inflation

786. **SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the various measures taken by his Ministry and the other monetary authorities like the Reserve Bank of India to tighten the credit squeeze to check the present inflationary trends;

(b) how far these measures have resulted in fighting the inflation; and

(c) what other measures Government have in view to arrest these inflationary trends?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India has been taking such credit control measures which aim at restraining inflationary

pressures in the economy, without in any way affecting the level of production. These measures include the use of Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR), Cash Reserve Ratio, incremental credit-deposit ratio, refinance accommodation, selective credit controls, interest rates and optimal management of funds. It has also curtailed the effective drawing powers of large borrowers under cash-credit and inland bills account, effective control on non-food credit expansion of scheduled commercial banks. The Participation Certificates have also been brought within the purview of the SLR and Cash Reserve Ratio requirements. As a result of all these measures, the increase in money supply was lower at Rs. 2265 crores (10.3 per cent) during 1979-80 (upto March 26, 1980) compared to an increase of Rs. 3437 crores (18.7 per cent) during 1978-79. Similarly, the rate of growth in scheduled bank credit (Gross) to commercial sector has been restrained in 1979-80 at 17.7 per cent compared with 19.7 per cent in the previous year. The detailed measures taken to contain the credit expansion in the face of inflationary potential have been outlined in the Economic Survey 1979-80, which is being presented to the Parliament today. The position is being kept under careful watch and further measures will be undertaken in the light of the emerging situation.

Commercial and Economic Cooperation between India and European Economic Community

787. **SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his recent visit to the capital, Mr. Roy Jenkins, President of European Economic Community held talks on commercial and economic co-operation between India and the European Economic Community;

(b) has any agreement been reached; if so, the salient features

thereof and how it will benefit India; and

(c) if not, when it is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The talks with Mr. Roy Jankins, President of the Commission of the European Communities, covered various multilateral and bilateral issues such as the new Commercial and Economic Cooperation Agreement between India and the European Economic Community.

(b) and (c). The talks were in the nature of mutual exchange of views and did not envisage conclusion of any agreement.

Price Rise

788. SHRI ARJUN SETHI:
SHRI N. E. HORO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government realise that the prospects on the price front are bleak during coming harvest and it is unlikely to improve price situation;

(b) if so, whether Government has noted that the important role of non-agricultural items in the inflation of the past year makes it necessary to maintain continued vigilance against sources of inflation outside the non-agricultural sector; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). Prices have remained under pressure since the beginning of 1979-80 and that the situation was aggravated by widespread drought in the country and international factors. Between March 1979—March 1980, the prices of non-

agricultural products rose by 26.7 per cent as against 13.2 per cent in case of agricultural products. Although there has been some slow-down during the recent months, prices are likely to remain under pressure due to seasonal factors until the middle of September. However, there is no cause for undue pessimism. Early reports on the progress of monsoon are quite encouraging and normal rainfall during the year will no doubt improve the price-situation substantially.

(c) Government are aware of the factors responsible for upward pressure on prices and keeping a careful watch on the price front. Several steps have already been taken to bring the prices under reasonable control and further steps in this regard would be taken as and when necessary.

Appointment of Subordinate Staff Class—IV Employees in S.B.I., New Delhi

789. SHRI CHANDRA PAL SHAILANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India, New Delhi Local Head Office had prepared a panel/waiting list in June, 1979 for the appointment of subordinate staff/Class—IV employees for its various branches in Delhi/New Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of persons appointed immediately after interview in June, 1979 and those who were placed on the panel/waiting list;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of out-side persons have been subsequently appointed on the pretext of 'on temporary basis' on the posts of subordinate staff/Class—IV services just to ignore the panel formed in 1979;

(d) if so, the number of such persons appointed, and the reasons for the same, when the panel is still alive; and

(e) whether it is proposed to replace these outside persons with those on the panel/waiting list?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) & (b). Interviews were held for the selection of subordinate staff (Class IV employees) against permanent vacancies in the month of June, 1979 for Delhi and New Delhi Recruitment Zones. As a result thereof 70 candidates have been offered appointment so far and 148 candidates have been wait-listed. As per the existing instructions, waiting lists are kept alive until the expiry of one year from the date of the first appointment made out of the waiting list or holding of the next interview whichever is earlier.

(c), (d) & (e). 11 water-boys on daily wages have been appointed in the New Delhi Local Head Office of State Bank of India to provide drinking water to the employees during the current summer season. The appointment of the water-boys is purely of a casual nature and will not stand in the way of appointment of candidates wait-listed against permanent vacancies.

Promotion from Clerical Cadre to Officer Grade-II in S.B.I., New Delhi

790. SHRI CHANDRA PAL SHAILANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any waiting list or panel has been prepared in 1979 by the State Bank of India, New Delhi Local Head Office for promotion from clerical cadre to the Officer grade-II cadre;

(b) whether it has been the practice of the Bank to prepare such a waiting list/panel;

(c) if not, the reasons for preparing such a list/panel;

(d) whether the candidates who appeared in the written tests for promotion to Officer Grade-II Cadre

were informed regarding formation of such a waiting list/panel in advance;

(e) whether it is a fact that such a waiting list/panel would hamper further chances of a large number of candidates belonging to SC/ST communities who have become eligible to appear at the written test to be held in 1980; and

(f) the steps taken so far or proposed to be taken to cancel the waiting list/panel and to conduct test as well as special test exclusively for SC/ST employees?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (c). The State Bank of India has reported that 133 employees have been wait-listed in the Local Head Office of State Bank of India, New Delhi for promotion from clerical cadre to the Officer Grade II cadre on the basis of their performance in the written test held on 19th August, 1979. The waiting list has been drawn from the first time as a result of an agreement entered into between the State Bank of India Staff Federation and the Management.

(d) The Bank has also reported that the total number of vacancies which the bank proposes to fill up are not circulated/notified to the candidates/branches at the time of holding the test.

(e) The Bank has stated that the waiting list has not been prepared with the intention of curtailing promotion chances of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes employees who will become eligible to write the future promotional test.

(f) As the waiting list has been prepared in accordance with the agreement entered into between the State Bank of India Staff Federation and the Management, it is not possible for the Bank to cancel the waiting list. The Bank will be asked to examine whether there is a case for holding an examination exclusively for SC/ST candidates.

Pruning of Air India's Operating Expenses and Restructuring of its Route Pattern

791. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether efforts have been made by the Air-India to prune its operating expenses in view of continual rise in fuel prices over the past two years; and

(b) if so, the details regarding plans to restructure its route pattern so that unprofitable flights could be abolished and frequency of flight on profitable routes increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Air-India have now eliminated halts at European points on their India/USA flights. On the more profitable route of India/Gulf, Air-India have increased the capacity by operating more 747 flights. Multi-sector flights to Gulf stations have been increased with a view to ensuring higher passenger and cargo load factors.

Tax Arrears against Large Industrial Houses

792. SHRI CHANDRABHAN ATHARE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that huge arrears of Corporation tax and Income-tax are outstanding against the large Industrial Houses;

(b) what were the amounts due in each category as on 31st March, 1979 and 31st March, 1980; and

(c) what stringent measures are being taken to liquidate the arrears?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). The undertakings registered under Section 26(2) of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 as covered by sections 20(a)(i) and 20(a)(ii) of the said Act are considered as large industrial houses. The Government is aware that Income-tax demands are outstanding against the assessees belonging to large industrial Houses also. Complete information, desired in part (b) of the question is not available in respect of all such assessees. It is however, available for assessees against whom the gross income tax demand outstanding at the end of each quarter exceeded Rs. 10 lakhs. The industrial house-wise information as on 31-3-79 and on 31-3-80 is annexed.

(c) Demands remain outstanding in the cases for various reasons such as, pendency of appeals, stay orders by Courts, management taken over by Government, rectification and revisions pending etc. Steps have been taken to expedite disposal of appeals by the concerned Appellate Authorities wherever demands are disputed and appeals are pending. In other cases, depending on the facts and circumstances of each case, suitable steps are taken from time to time by the Income-tax authorities concerned for recovery of arrears in accordance with the provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

Statement

(Amounts in lakhs of Rupees)

S. No.	Name of the Company	Demand as on 31-3-1979			Demand as on 31-3-1980		
		Tax in Arrears	Tax not fallen due	Gross Total	Tax in Arrears	Tax not fallen due	Gross Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<i>Bangur</i>							
1.	Maharaja Shree Umaid Mills Ltd. . . .	..	18.07	18.07	Gone below Rs. 10 lakhs	Gone below Rs. 10 lakhs	Gone below Rs. 10 lakhs
2.	Shree Madhusudan Mills Ltd. . . .	..	16.70	16.70	..	17.91	17.91
		..	34.77	34.77	..	17.91	17.91
<i>Birla</i>							
3.	Gwalior Rayon Silk Mfg. Co. Ltd. . . .	..	115.45	115.45	..	178.04	178.04
4.	India Steamship Co. Ltd. . . .	..	35.62	35.62	..	42.93	42.93
5.	Jiyajeerao Cotton Mills Ltd. . . .	..	33.63	33.63	29.94	213.95	243.89
6.	National Engg. In- dustries Ltd. . . .	17.30	..	17.30	..	23.34	23.34
7.	Taxmaco Ltd. . . .	21.53	..	21.53	29.06	3.66	32.72
8.	M/s. Mysore Cement Ltd. . . .	..	..	..	20.00	..	20.00
9.	M/s. Jayshree Tea & Industries Ltd. . . .	..	..	..	..	1.64	1.64
10.	M/s. Century Spg. & Mfg. Co. Ltd. . . .	..	..	..	52.80	..	52.80
		38.83	184.70	223.53	131.80	463.56	595.36
<i>Bhiwandiwala</i>							
11.	A.H. Bhiwandiwala . . . .	..	..	..	9.68	..	9.68
		..	..	..	9.68	..	9.68
<i>Chowgule</i>							
12.	M/s. Chogule Brothers . . . .	..	..	..	13.72	..	13.72
		..	..	..	13.72	..	13.72

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<i>J.K. Singhania</i>							
13	J.K. Synthetics Ltd.	..	153.27	153.27	237.04	136.70	373.74
14	J.K. Cotton Spg. & Wvg. Mills Ltd.	24.85	60.98	85.23	..	70.08	70.08
15	Straw Products Ltd.	..	64.06	64.06	64.06	..	64.06
		24.85	278.31	303.16	301.10	206.78	507.88
<i>Jaipuria</i>							
16	Swadeshi Cotton Mills Co. Ltd.	0.43	84.67	85.10	..	78.50	78.50
17	M/s. Swadeshi Mining & Mfg. Co. Ltd.	..	..	..	..	27.05	27.05
		0.43	84.67	85.10	..	105.55	105.55
<i>I.C.I.</i>							
18	The Alkali Chemicals Corp. of India Ltd.	..	..	..	23.37	..	23.37
19	M/s. Indian Explosives Ltd.	..	..	..	..	322.42	322.42
		..	..	..	27.37	322.42	345.79
<i>Kamani</i>							
20	Jaipur Metals & Electrical Ltd.	15.38	..	15.38	..	17.23	17.23
21	Kamani Engg. Corpn. Ltd.	..	21.00	21.00	..	..	..
22	Kamani Metallic Oxides Ltd.	12.61	..	12.61	11.90	1.51	13.41
23	Kamani Metal & Alloys Ltd.	97.39	..	97.59	12.20	1.46	13.66
24	Kamani Bros. Pvt. Ltd.	..	..	..	13.00	0.96	13.96
		125.38	21.00	146.38	37.10	21.16	58.26
<i>Kapadia (Killick)</i>							
25	Maganlal Chaganlal Pvt. Ltd.	67.73	41.96	109.69	70.45	2.47	72.92
26	Nav Jiwan Mills Ltd.	..	..	..	..	21.88	21.18
		67.73	41.96	109.69	70.45	23.65	94.10
<i>Kasturbhai Lal Bhai</i>							
27	Atul Products Ltd.	..	26.45	26.45	Below Rs. 10 lakhs		
		..	26.45	26.45	Below Rs. 10 lakhs		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Kila Chand

28	Synthetics & Chemicals Ltd.	..	..	..	..	23.44	23.44
		..	..	..	..	23.44	23.44

Kirlosear

29	Kirloskar Oil Engines Ltd.	..	10.61	10.61	Below Rs. 10 lakhs		
		..	10.61	10.61	Below Rs. 10 lakhs		

Kothari

30	M/s. Kothari (Madras) Ltd.	..	..	..	..	41.92	41.92
		..	..	..	..	41.92	41.92

Mafatlal

31	Hoechst Dyes & Chemicals Ltd.	..	11.49	11.49	below Rs. 10 lakhs		
		..	11.49	11.49			

Modi

32	Modi Pan Ltd.	5.00	393.11	398.11	38.01	303.12	341.13
33	M d Industries Ltd.	19.15	37.15	56.30	5.38	62.00	68.57
		24.15	430.26	454.41	43.39	366.11	409.50

M.S. Oberoi

34	East India Hotels Ltd.	..	12.48	12.48	..	20.97	20.97
		..	12.48	12.48	..	20.97	20.97

Naidu G.V.

35	Lakshmi Machine Works Ltd.	..	20.11	20.11	below Rs. 10 lakhs		
36	South India Viscose Ltd	97.71	104.46	202.17	35.26	284.07	319.33
		97.71	124.57	222.28	35.26	284.07	319.33

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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R.N. Goirkha

37	Express Newspapers (P) Ltd. . .	17.58	..	17.58	43.35	..	43.35
38	Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) P. Ltd.	56.49	56.49	..	107.40	107.40
		17.58	56.49	74.07	43.35	107.40	150.75

Raunaq Singh

39	Bharat Steel Tubes Ltd. . . .	234.51	169.70	404.21	..	648.31	648.31
40	M/s Raunaq & Co. P. Ltd. . . .	..	..	..	..	33.86	33.86
		234.51	169.70	404.21	..	682.17	682.17

Sarabhai

41	Suhrid Geigy Ltd. . . .	..	11.78	11.78	below Rs. 10 lakhs
		..	11.78	11.78	below Rs. 10 lakhs

Shri Ram

42	Jay Engg. Works Ltd. . . .	2.06	24.98	27.04	below Rs. 10 lakhs
43	Shri Ram Piston & Rings Ltd. . . .	..	11.00	11.00	below Rs. 10 lakhs
		2.06	35.98	38.04	

Shriyans Prasad Jain

44	Dharangadra Chemicals Works Ltd. . . .	20.69	..	20.69	11.33	..	11.33
		20.69	..	20.69	11.33	..	11.33

Soorajmull Nagarmull

45	British India Corporation Ltd. . . .	..	250.80	250.80	243.31	84.07	327.38
46	Canpore Sugar Works Ltd. . . .	..	64.61	64.61	..	32.56	32.56
47	Elgin Mills Co. Ltd. . . .	..	20.67	20.67	below Rs. 10 lakhs	..	
		..	336.08	336.08	243.31	116.63	359.94

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<i>T.V.S. Iyengar</i>							
48	Brakes India Ltd. .	2.40	8.86	11.26	below Rs. 10 lakhs		
49	Sundaram Clayton Ltd.	20.28	9.65	29.93	below Rs. 10 lakhs		
50	Wheels India Ltd. .	3.00	19.89	22.89	below Rs. 10 lakhs		
51	Singer Sewing Ma- chine Co. Ltd. .	..	..	..	1.77	28.52	30.29
		25.68	38.40	64.08	1.77	28.52	30.29

Thiagaraja

52	East India Corpn. Ltd.	.	.	.	..	11.05	11.05	..	..	..
53	Saroja Mills Ltd.	.	.	..	..	11.64	11.64	..	..	..
54	Rajendra Mills Ltd.	.	15.39	0.26	15.65	14.39	0.81	15.20		

Tata

Oil India

United Breweries

57	Crown & Co Ltd.	.	16 15	..	16 15	16 15	..	16 15
58	Hoechst Pharmaceutic Is Ltd.	.	..	30 26	30 26	below Rs. 10 lakhs		

Union Carbide

59 Union Carbide India
Ltd. 49.69 49.69

.. 49.69 49.69

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	78
<i>V.S. Dempo</i>							
60 V.S. Dempo & Co Ltd.	28.17	..	28.17
					28.17	..	28.17

Ghia

61 M/s Indian Organic Chemicals Ltd. . . . .	..	84.89	..	84.89
<i>Mahindra & Mahindra</i>		84.89	..	84.89
62 Mahindra & Mahin- dra Ltd. . . . .	..	18.27	..	18.27
		18.27	..	18.27

*Other Single Large Under-
taking having Assets over
Rs. 20 Crores or more*

63 M/s. Good-year India Ltd . . . . .	..	45.03	..	45.03
64 M/s. Nirlon Synthetics Fibres and Chemicals Ltd. . . . .	..	..	121.73	121.73
65 India Cement Ltd. . . . .	..	..	51.39	51.39
66 Madras Rubber Fac- tory Ltd. . . . .	..	31.20	..	31.20
		76.23	173.12	249.35

Note : This statement does not include information about three dominant undertakings registered under section 20(b) of the M.R.T.P. Act, 1969.

Import of Stainless Steel

793. SHRI D. P. JADEJA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the categories under which stainless steel is being imported;

(b) the quantity imported during the last three years under each category; and

(c) what is the Government check that the quantity imported in each

category is utilised in that category only?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Import of Stainless Steel can be divided into two broad categories viz., (i) flat products and (ii) rerollables including wire roles.

(b) Date on total imports is available from Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics orly upto August 1978. Imports of stainless steel by the canalising agencies,

namely Steel Authority of India Ltd. and Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd., during last three years were however as below:—

Year	Rerollables including wire rods (Quantity in MT)	Flat products (Qty. in MT)
1977-78	106	16,043
1978-79	10,636	22,978
1979-80	1,521	34,400

Apart from canalising agencies, some other actual users and Registered Exporters also import the material.

(c) In order to check proper utilisation of imported material by actual users and Registered Exporters, the Import Trade Control Authorities, in consultation with (State) Director of Industries and other sponsoring authorities, carry out necessary verification on random and selective basis of the extent and the manner in which an Actual User has utilised the imported goods. Further, the sponsoring authorities concerned are required to check up whether the imported materials have been properly used by the Actual User in their jurisdiction and whether they have maintained true and proper account of import and consumption, in the form and manner prescribed. They are required to report to the licensing authority concerned such cases in which the Actual Users have contravened the condition subject to which the goods were allowed for import or allotted by the canalising agency or otherwise transferred/lent. Thereafter action as contemplated under the relevant Import Control Law is initiated.

Hardship to Tourists at Tourist Centres

794. SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state.

(a) has it come to the notice of Government that tourists are now

being put to hardship regarding (i) accommodation (ii) food and (iii) nuisance of unsocial elements including beggars at many tourist centres; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to give required convenience and comfort particularly to foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Some such cases have come to the notice of the Government. With a view to meeting the shortages of accommodation Government is considering plans for encouraging construction of new hotels of all categories and expansion of existing hotels in the private as well as the public sectors. While the problem of protecting the tourists from harassment by beggars and unsocial elements is the function of the State Police forces the Central Department of Tourism has been emphasising on the State Governments the need for introducing effective measures to protect tourists from being harassed by beggars, touts etc.

Raw Jute Stocks lying Undisposed with J. C. I.

795. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of raw jute stocks lying undisposed with the Jute Corporation of India;

(b) whether there is any attempt to export the same; and

(c) if not, whether these stocks will have a depressing effect on raw jute prices in the coming season, causing additional distress to the growers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). JCI has reported that 12.56 lakh bales of raw jute are lying in stocks with the Corporation on 7-6-1980. Various methods of disposal are being considered, including exports.

Trade Deficit

796. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India's Trade deficit in 1979-80 is almost 25 per cent higher than in 1978-79;
- (b) whether this is mainly due to the rising costs of imported oil and petroleum products, as well as other commodities; and
- (c) whether, in view of the declining foreign exchange reserves, there is any plan to modify the present liberal import policy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) On provisional basis the deficit of India's foreign trade during 1979-80 amounted to Rs. 2232.68 crores which was more than double the deficit of Rs. 1088.04 crores (Revised) in the previous year 1978-79.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government is taking possible measures to boost exports so that the trade deficit is reduced. Efforts are being made to identify and remove constraints in export production and other infrastructural facilities. The Import Policy for the current financial year 1980-81, which was announced on 15th April, 1980, has been given export orientation. In order to help exports, the policy contains the following salient features:—

(i) Manufacturer-exporters will have a wider choice than before for the import of items against their replenishment licences.

(ii) The scheme for the grant of advance licences with benefit of duty exemption has been made more wider in scope than before.

(iii) A scheme has been introduced to allow duty free imports against replenishment licences. To begin

with, the scheme is applicable to a few export products only.

(iv) The import policy for Export Houses has been liberalised to enable Export Houss to render greater assistance to their supporting manufacturers in the supply of imported inputs.

(v) Manufacturer-Exporters exporting 10 per cent or more of their production will be given automatic licences as Actual Users for import of raw materials and components for a value 10 per cent higher than than their actual consumption.

Rate of Inflation

797. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO:

SHRI S. R. A. S. APPALA NAIDU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of inflation has been very high during the last four months;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to contain it; and

(c) what was the rate of inflation during the corresponding period of the last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAJ BAROT): (a) and (c). The rate of inflation as measured by the Wholesale Price Index (1970-71=100) works out to 5.6 per cent for the period 26th January, 1980 to 24th May, 1980 as against 7.6 per cent for the corresponding period of 1979; the rates for the corresponding periods of 1977 and 1978 were 4.6 per cent and 1.01 per cent respectively.

(b) Government views the existing price trends with concern and is determined to tackle the price situation.

through a number of measures which include strengthening the Public Distribution System; augmenting domestic availability through imports of commodities in short supply; curbing anti-social activities; increasing production; more efficient management of infrastructure and restraining undue expansion in money supply and bank credit.

Shortage of Essential Commodities in Garo Hills Districts of Meghalaya

798. SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an acute shortage of essential commodities like rice, sugar, fuel etc. in the Garo Hills Districts of Meghalaya; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to improve the situation in the area?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) and (b). On account of movement constraints, created by continuing agitation in Assam, the availability of some essential commodities in North Eastern States including Meghalaya has been adversely affected. Even though the Gauhati and Digboi refineries have been working intermittently the overall availability of kerosene etc. in the North Eastern Region has gone down appreciably.

All efforts are being made to move as much of rice to the North Eastern States including Meghalaya as possible under the prevailing circumstances. In the case of levy sugar, out of total allocation of 2655.8 tonnes made to Meghalaya upto May, 1980, the total quantity lifted by FCI upto 31st May, 1980 was 2536.8 tonnes, leaving a balance of only 119.0 tonnes. In the case of kerosene some quantity had to be moved from Haldia, (West Bengal), to Siliguri and from there despatched by road/rail to North Eastern States

including Meghalaya. From out of the available product, pro-rata allocations are being made to these States.

However, the responsibility of making available the supplies of these commodities to different areas of the State is that of the State Government.

Demand, Allocation and Actual Supply of Edible Oils to States

799. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) State-wise demand for edible oils, month-wise, from January to May, 1980;

(b) Statewise allocation and actual supply, month-wise from January to May, 1980; and

(c) on what basis State-wise quota per edible oils is fixed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) On the basis of data furnished by State Governments/Union Territories, a statement showing the demand for the period from January, 1980 to May, 1980 is enclosed. (Annexure I).

(b) The Statements [Statements II & III (a) to (e)] giving the required information are laid on the Table of the House. Placed in Library. See No. LT-885/80).

(c) Monthly allocation of imported edible oils to States are made by the Central Government on the basis of their projected demand and also keeping in view the lifting by them of allocation for the previous months.

Rise in Index of Wholesale Prices

800. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) rise in the index of wholesale prices (in per cent) between 1st

March, 1979 and 31st July, 1979 between 1st August, 1979 and 31st January, 1980;

(b) rise in wholesale price index, monthwise, from February to May, 1980; and

(c) rise in wholesale price index of (in per cent) cereals, foodgrains, fuels, match boxes, toilets including soaps and cotton textile goods during the same periods?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAJI BAROT) (a) The Wholesale Price Index (1970-71—) increased by 14.3 per cent between 3-3-1979 and 28-7-1979 and by 5.8 per cent between 28-7-1979 and 26-1-1980.

(b) and (c). The available information about the rise in wholesale price index is given in the attached statement.

Statement

Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices (1970-71-100)

Percent variations

	28-7-79	26-1-80	Feb 80	March 80	April 80	May 80*	Percent variations
							3-3-79 28-7-79 Jan. 80 Feb. 80 March 80 April 80
All Commodities	.	14.3	5.8	1.8	No ch.	0.6	2.6
Foodgrains	.	8.1	5.6	-0.2	-0.1	-1.2	0.1
Cereals	.	8.3	7.7	-0.1	-0.3	-1.4	2.0
Fuels	.	8.2	12.2	1.3	-12.4	2.0	9.0
Match Box	.	No ch.	5.3	No ch.	No ch.	No ch.	-1.6
Cosmetics, soap and detergents	0.5	15.9	-1.2	1.3	0.1	1.2	
Cotton Textiles	.	2.8	3.8	1.2	Neg	1.6	1.5

* Average of first 4 weeks of May 1980 compared with the preceding month

N.B. Figures for March, April & May 1980 are provisional

Mini Steel Plants and their installed capacity/production

801. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) total number of mini steel plants in the country at present and total installed capacity of and actual production of steel from mini plants, year-wise, from 1975-76 to 1979-80;

(b) total capital investment as at the end of 1979-80;

(c) how many plants are actually functioning now; and

(d) total number of workers laid-off/thrown out of employment during the past five years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) At present there are 146 mini steel plants in the country and their installed capacity is 3.2 million tonnes per year approximately.

The production of steel by the mini-steel plants from 1975-76 to 1979-80 is as under:—

Year	Production (in tonne)
1975-76	7,82,800
1976-77	9,95,000
1977-78	11,34,828
1978-79	16,57,472
1979-80	15,83,898

(b) Information regarding total capital investment in these plants is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) According to the production reports sent by these plants to the Iron and Steel Controller, the number of plants in production varies from month-to-month. During the year 1979-80, the number of plants reporting production varied from 90 in November, 1979 to 110 in January, 1980.

(d) Information is not available with the Government.

Closure of case against Associated Journals by CBI

802. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has closed the case against the Associated Journals which owns National Herald in the matter of granting irregular overdraft of Rs. 10 lakhs by the former Chairman of Punjab National Bank; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). Central Bureau of Investigation have

reported that there was no case against M/s. Associated Journals Ltd., but they had however registered a case against the former Chairman and Managing Director of Punjab National Bank and others. As the allegations were not substantiated, CBI had closed the case on 31-3-80.

Taking over of Banks

803. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to takeover more banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Demand for Indian Cycles in Foreign Countries

804. SHRI C. CHINASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a heavy demand for Indian cycles in foreign countries;

(b) the names of the countries to which they are exported at present;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned thereby during the last two years; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to encourage cycle production and export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a good demand for

Indian bi-cycles and bi-cycle parts abroad.

(b) Indian bi-cycles and bi-cycle parts are exported to nearly 50 countries of the world including Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Zambia etc.

(c) The foreign exchange earned from the sale of bi-cycles and bi-cycle parts during the last two years is as follows:

Year	Foreign Exchange earned (In Crore Rs.)
1978-79 . . .	29.49
1979-80 . . .	30.00 Provisional

(d) The industry is being provided with normal export benefits like Cash Compensatory Support on exports; imports replenishment and duty-drawback on materials purchased for production. The Engineering Export Promotion Council undertakes various measures of export promotion such as participation in trade fairs abroad, deputation of delegations and survey teams abroad, publicity provision of market intelligence to its members etc. The Council also assists the exporters in securing the necessary inputs for the production of bi-cycles and bi-cycle parts meant for exports.

Banks loans to Unemployed Graduates

805. SHRI C. CHINNASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are giving bank loans to unemployed graduates to start business of their own; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). Within the overall policy framework of the Government to encourage self-employment ventures, the public sector banks are extending credit assistance for the economically viable ventures, particularly those in the priority sectors, undertaken by the unemployed, including the educated unemployed. As at the end of December, 1979, the public sector banks, had outstanding advances of about Rs. 164 crores to over 7 lakhs Professional and Self-employed people.

Misuse of Import Facility canalised through MMTC

806. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bombay Ferrous and Non-Ferrous Manufacturers Association has complained that there is gross misuse of import facility and concessions canalised through Mineral and Metals Trading Corporation for import of stainless steel sheets;

(b) how many cases have been detected of misuse of import licences of stainless sheets and names of the firms and quantum imported; and

(c) what action Government have taken to stop misuse of import licences canalised through MMTC?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Bombay Ferrous and Non-ferrous Manufacturers' Association has forwarded to Mineral and Metals Trading Corporation, some points for discussion in the Central Consultative Committee for stainless steel items. One of the points mentioned therein was, that the export houses import

good quality sheets declaring the same as of defective quality and get them cleared at concessional rates of import duty. The entire quantity of prime material so imported is sold at a much lower price than the sale price of Mineral and Metals Trading Corporation. It has, therefore, been suggested that the import of stainless steel sheets be restricted to MMTC only and that the import through export houses be banned totally.

(b) Information regarding the number of such cases and details thereof is being collected from the customs authorities.

(c) There is no scope for such misuse in respect of imports by the canalising agency.

Measures to prevent smuggling of antiques

807. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news-item captioned "Antique-smugglers bypass the law" appearing in the Sunday Standard, New Delhi, dated 25th May, 1980;

(b) if so, his reaction thereto;

(c) whether cases of such smuggling of antiques are on the rise and a big haul of such antiques was recently detected at a farm house in the capital; and

(d) if so, the measures which Government propose to take to prevent such illicit trading, possession and smuggling of various types of precious antiques?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

चीनी का आयात

808. श्री भीष्मा भाईः

श्री रमेशतार शास्त्रीः

श्री अमर राय प्रधानः

श्री अनार्द्धन पुणारीः

श्री विजय बसुः

श्री नन्द किशोर शर्माः

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या देश में चीनी की बढ़ती हुई कमी को ध्यान में रखते हुए उसका आयात किया जा रहा है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो कितनी चीनी का आयात करने का विचार है और उस पर कितनी राशि रुप्त होगी; और

(ग) सरकार द्वारा गन्ते का उत्पादन इस हद तक सुनिश्चित करने के लिए क्या प्रोत्साहन देने के बारे में कार्यवाही की जा रही है कि चीनी का आयात करने की आवश्यकता न पड़े बल्कि घरेलू मांग की पूर्ति करने के बाद चीनी के निर्यात में विदेशी मुद्रा भी अर्जित की जा सके?

वाणिज्य तथा इस्पात व सान मंत्री (श्री प्रणब मुख्यमंत्री): (क) जी हाँ।

(ख) राज्य व्यापार निगम ने 200,000 मी. टन परिष्कृत चीनी आयात करने के लिए संविदा की है जिस पर लगभग 120.34 करोड़ रु. के आयात व्यय का अनुमान है।

(ग) भारत सरकार ने 1979-80 में गन्ते की 12.60 रु. प्रति किलोटल की दर से उच्चतर न्यूनतम कानूनी कीमत निर्धारित की जो वर्ष 1978-79 में निर्धारित की गई कीमत से 2.50 रु. प्रति किलोटल अधिक थी। कुछ राज्य सरकारें उपजकर्ताओं को कीटनाशक दवाइयों, बीज तथा पाँध संरक्षण कार्यों की लागत पर उपदान तथा ब्याज मुक्त छूट देकर और उपजकर्ताओं के खेतों में प्रदर्शन आयोजित करके प्रोत्साहन दे रही हैं। भारत सरकार ने गन्ते की फसल

पर पांच संरक्षण उपाय करने के लिए 2 करोड़ रु. के परिव्यय की व्यवस्था करने का शिक्षण किया है। ऐसे चीनी कारखानों को उत्पादकता प्रोत्साहन देने के बारे में सोचा जा रहा है। जो अक्टूबर-नवम्बर 1980 में जल्दी पिराई का काम शुरू कर देताकि किसान गन्ने की बेहतर कीमतें प्राप्त कर सकें और उसके परिणाम स्वरूप गन्ने का बेहतर उत्पादन हो सके।

Sugar from Foreign Countries

809. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by the Central Government for supply of sugar quota to the States;

(b) whether India has brought some refined sugar through London commodity brokers; and

(c) whether some refined sugar is still awaited from some foreign countries and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) The imported sugar is planned to be allocated to State Governments for meeting the sugar demand of the bulk consumers in their areas. The Government have been requested to indicate their requirements. The State Trading Corporation would also approach national-level cooperative organisations for their requirements for selling sugar through their own State-level organisations.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. A contract for import of 2,00,000 MT of refined sugar has recently been concluded by STC.

Anti-Hoarding Measures in Bihar

810. SHRI SURYA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether anti-hoarding measures taken by Government in Bihar have

proved ineffective and the prices of mustard oil, washing soap, sugar, horlicks, vaishali, exercise books, etc. have not only gone up but their shortage has become more acute; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken some steps in this regard and if so, the results thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) and (b). The information is being collected from the State Government and a reply will be laid on the table of the Sabha after its receipt.

Alleged Violation of F. E. R. A. by a Soft Drink Firm

811. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a case has been registered against a soft drink firm for alleged violation of the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act and cheating by the firm and its Directors; and

(b) if so, what is the name of the said firm and other details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the case registered by C.B.I. on 5-4-80 against M/s. Bisleri (India) Pvt. Ltd., Bombay, a company manufacturing soft drinks, for alleged offences under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, and also under the I.P.C.

The case has been registered against the above said Company and two of its Directors namely, Shri Ramesh J. Chauhan and H. M. Golwala. The allegation against them is that they obtained permission of the R.B.I. for remittance of £14,336 from India by

making false statement and suppression of facts. During the course of investigation, the C.B.I. have searched the premises of M/s. Bisleri (India) Pvt. Ltd., Bombay and some other connected premises on 7-4-80 and 8-4-80 and seized a number of documents. Further investigation is in progress.

Import of Sugar from London

812. SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar was imported from London recently to meet the shortage in the country; and

(b) if so, the quantum and the rate per tonne?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, A contract has been concluded by S.T.C. for import of 2 lakh metric tonnes of refined sugar at the best available international price at the time of signing the contract.

Filling up of the Vacancy of Director of Weights and Measures

814. SHRI C. CHINNASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director of Weights and Measures has retired from Service almost an year ago;

(b) whether it is also a fact that names have been called for deputation

from various Ministries but no selection has been made so far inspite of 12 months have passed away; and

(c) if so, by when the vacancy is likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) to (c). The last incumbent of the post of Director (Weights and Measures) superannuated on 31-8-1979. In anticipation of the finalisation of the recruitment rules framed for the post of Director (W&M), a circular letter calling for applications from suitable qualified officers had been circulated in the month of July to all the State Governments, Ministries of Government of India and other institutions. The recruitment rules for the post of Director (W&M) have recently been finalised by the Union Public Service Commission and are being notified. The applications received in response to the circular issued in the month of July, 1979 have already been forwarded to the Union Public Service Commission which will make the final selection of the candidate for the post of Director (Weights & Measures) as soon as the recruitment rules are notified in the Gazette of India.

Deposit of Tax amount deducted from Salaries of Employees by M/s. Sylvania and Lakshman Pvt. Ltd.

815. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY:

SHRI CHANDRADEO PRA-SAD VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Sylvania and Lakshman Pvt. Ltd. failed to deposit with the Income-tax Department, the tax amount deducted at the source from the salaries of the employees for the year 1976-77;

(b) if so, the full details;

(c) action taken against Chairman and Joint and Managing Director of the Company; and

(d) their names?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) No, Sir, However, the income-tax deducted from the salaries of the employees was not deposited within the prescribed time.

(b) The amount of income-tax aggregating to Rs. 98,156/- deducted from the salaries of the employees during the year 1976-77 except for the the months of August and September 1976 was deposited late by one to sixteen months. The income-tax deducted from the salaries of August and September 1976 was deposited within one month and the delay was ignored.

(c) Prosecutions have been launched.

(d) (i) Chairman & Managing Director—Shri Laxman S. Aggarwal; and

(ii) Joint Director—Smt. S. K. Aggarwal.

Demand of Class I Officers of L.I.C.

816. SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the pressing demand of Life Insurance Corporations Class I officers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far to meet their legitimate demand?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The L.I.C. has resumed negotiations for the revision of pay scales etc. with the Unions of Class III and Class IV employees and the Federation of Class I Officers, and has offered them concrete proposals to meet their legitimate demands.

12 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

REVIEW AND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE TRADING CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD. FOR 1978-79, REVIEW AND ANNUAL REPORT OF JUNE CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD., FOR 1978-79, REVIEW AND ANNUAL REPORT OF INDIAN IRON AND STEEL CO., LTD., FOR 1978-79, REVIEW AND ANNUAL REPORT OF MANGANESE ORE (INDIA) LTD., NAGPUR FOR 1978-79, REVIEW AND ANNUAL REPORT OF NATIONAL MINERAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD., HYDERABAD FOR 1978-79, ETC.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): On behalf of Shri Pranab Mukherjee,

I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the State Trading Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of the State Trading Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1978-79 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-842/80]

(b) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Jute Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of the Jute Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1978-79 along with the audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-843/80]

[Shri T. R. Ansari]

(c) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1977-78 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-844/80.]

(d) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Manganese Ore (India) Limited, Nagpur, for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of the Manganese Ore (India) Limited, Nagpur, for the year 1978-79 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT- 845/80.]

(e) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1978-79 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT- 846/80.]

(2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (c) of item (1) above. [Placed in Library. See No LT- 846/80.]

(3) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Trade Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 1978-79. [Placed in Library. See No. LT- 862/80.]

(4) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi for the year 1978-79. [Placed in Library. See No. LT- 847/80.]

(5) A copy of the Indian Institute of Legal Metrology Rules, 1980 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. GSR. 194 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April, 1980, under sub-section (4) of section 83 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976. [Placed in Library. See No. LT- 848/80.]

(6) A copy of the Imports and Exports Control (Authentication of Documents) Rules, 1980 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 149(E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th March, 1980, under sub-section (3) of section 8 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-849/80.]

(7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 17 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963:—

(i) The Export of Toilet Soaps (Quality Control and Inspection) Rules, 1980, published in Notification No. S. O. 1016 in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 1980.

(ii) The Export Inspection Agency Employees (Classification, Control and Appeal) Amendment Rules, 1980, published in Notification No. S.O. 1019 in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 1980.

(iii) The Export Inspection Council Employees (Classification, Control and Appeal) Amendment Rules, 1980, published in Notification No. S.O. 1020 in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 1980.

Detergents (Quality Control and Inspection) Rules, 1980, published in Notification No. S.O. 1923 in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 1980.

(v) The Export of Basmati Rice (Inspection) Rules, 1980, published in Notification No. S.O. 1026 in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 1980.

(vi) The Export of Fish Meal (Inspection) Rules, published in Notification No. S.O. 1150 in Gazette of India dated the 26th April, 1980. [Placed in Library.

[See No. LT-850/80.]

ECONOMIC SURVEY, 1979-80

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
(SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): I
beg to lay on the Table a copy of
'Economic Survey', 1979-80, (Hindi
and English versions). [Placed in
Library. See No LT-851/80.]

NOTIFICATION UNDER TOBACCO BOARD
ACT

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Tobacco Board (Amendment) Rules, 1980 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 192(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April 1980, under sub-section (3) of Section 32 of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-852/80.]

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ESTATE DUTY ACT, INCOME-TAX ACT, COMPANIES (PROJECT) SURTAX ACT, CENTRAL EXCISES AND SALT ACT, CENTRAL EXCISE RULES, AND CUSTOMS ACT.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: On behalf of Shri Maganbhai Barot, I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy of the Estate Duty (Amendment) Rules, 1980 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 273(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 1980, under sub-section (3) (Amendment) Rules, 1980, published

(iv) The Export of Synthetic
of section 85 of the Estate Duty
Act, 1953. [Placed in Library. See
No. LT-853/80.]

(2) A copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 513 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th April, 1980 regarding exemption of property from Estate Duty under section 33(2) if bequeathed in favour of a University or other educational institutions under sub-section (2) of section (33) of the Estate Duty Act, 1953. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-854/80.]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961:—

(i) S.O. 1410 to 1415 published in Gazette of India dated the 24th May, 1980 regarding exemption to certain Organisations and Funds under section 10 (23C) (iv) of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

(ii) The Income-Tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 1980, published in Notification No. S.O. 351(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 1980. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-855/80.]

(4) A copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 223(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd April, 1980 regarding Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America for the avoidance of double taxation of enterprises operating aircraft issued under section 90 of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 and section 24A of the Companies (Profits) Surtax, Act, 1964. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-856/80.]

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944:—

(i) The Central Excise (Fourth

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in Notification No. G.S.R. 549 in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 1980.

(ii) The Central Excise (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 1980, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 276(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd May, 1980. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-857/80.]

(6) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) issued under the Central Excise Rules, 1944:—

(i) GSR 168(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption on food meant for free distribution to infants, children, pregnant women and nursing mothers from Central Excise Duty.

(ii) GSR 199(E) and 200(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th April, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption on Cotton fabrics subjected to expanding process from Excise Duty.

(iii) GSR 235(E) to 237(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to fibres and tops made out of wastes without involving any chemical or retrieval process from Excise Duty.

(iv) GSR 238(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exclusion of "Tea bags" from the definition of "Package Tea" for claiming rebate on export of Tea.

(v) GSR 245(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th April, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption on the cost of durable containers in respect of Methyl Chloride etc. from the assessable value.

(vi) GSR 257(E) to 259(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding concession on specified steel ingots iron or steel products manufactured with the aid of electric furnace and iron or steel products manufactured from certain specified materials from Excise Duty.

(vii) GSR 269(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th May, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption on High density polythylene tapes in used in the stitching of high density polythylene bags from Excise Duty.

(viii) GSR 270(E) and 271(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th May, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to cotton fabrics subjected to the process of hydro extraction from Excise Duty.

(ix) GSR 274(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption on scrap iron (irrespective of the phosphorus contents) from full Excise Duty.

(x) GSR 282(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding reduction in the basic excise duty on free sale sugar from 11 per cent. ad valorem to 8 per cent. ad valorem.

(xi) GSR 479 published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding powers delegated to the Officers to grant exemption from Central Excise Duty.

(xii) GSR 514 and 515 published in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption on butter whether pasteurised or not for the manufacture of ghee from Excise Duty.

(xiii) GSR 182(E) and 183(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st March, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding extension of the period of partial excise duty exemption on certain electric motors.

(xiv) GSR 196(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding excise duty on acrylic fibre produced indigenously.

(xv) GSR 226(E) to 229(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd April, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding restructuring of Excise Duty rates applicable to Caprolactum.

(xvi) GSR 279(E) and 280(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to wire rods, wife bars and billets made from electrical grade aluminium from Excise Duty.

(xvii) GSR 294(E) to 296(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption on fertilizers, other than Ammonium Sulphate and Calcium ammonium nitrate from Excise Duty.

(xviii) GSR 183(E) and 184(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding continuing of the existing basic excise duties on copper and copper alloys.

(xix) GSR 253(E) and 254(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th May, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding Excise duties on plain etched or formed aluminium foils. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-858/80.]

(7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

(i) GSR 230(E) to 232(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd April, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding restructuring of Customs Duty rates applicable to caprolactum.

(ii) GSR 164(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding extension of existing exemption of import duty on Cement and Paraffin till 31st March, 1981.

(iii) GSR 181 and 182(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding reduction of Customs Duty on unwrought copper.

(iv) GSR 249(E) to 252(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th May, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding Customs Duty on plan, etched or formed aluminium foils.

(v) GSR 112(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th March, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of seven foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa.

(vi) GSR 113(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th March, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding extension of Customs Duty exemption on P.V.C.

(vii) GSR 169(E) and 170(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding extension of the validity of existing exemption of duty on melting scrap and total exemption of Customs Duty on sponge iron.

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(viii) GSR 171(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding extension of the validity of existing exemption from Customs duty on jigs fixtures for manufacture of components in connection with manufacture of Krup Man Metal Float Bridges.

(ix) GSR 172(E) and 173(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding extension of the validity of existing partial exemption to Soda Ash from Customs Duty.

(x) GSR 174(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding extension of the validity of the existing exemption to plain and laminated aluminium foil from Customs Duty.

(xi) GSR 175(E) and 176(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding extension of the validity of existing exemption to components for manufacture of motor vehicles from Customs Duty.

(xii) GSR 178(E) and 179(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding Notification No. 71/Cus. dated the 25th March, 1978 and amending Notification No. 41/Customs dated 25th March, 1980.

(xiii) GSR 186(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding rates of exchange for conversion of seventeen foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa.

(xiv) GSR 188(E) and 189(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 1980 together with an

explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to edible oils, imported from USA under an agreement between National Dairy Development Board and the Cooperative League of the United States of America from whole of the Customs Duty.

(xv) GSR 190(E) and 191(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to certain specified raw materials used for the manufacture of sports goods from whole of basic and auxiliary duties of Customs.

(xvi) GSR 197(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Pound Sterling into Indian Currency or vice-versa.

(xvii) GSR 198(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd April, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Pound Sterling into Indian currency or vice-versa in supersession to Notification No. GSR 197(E) dated the 2nd April, 1980.

(xviii) GSR 201(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th April, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Russian Rouble into Indian currency or vice-versa.

(xix) GSR 205(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th April, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Pound Sterling into Indian currency or vice-versa in supersession to Notification No. GSR 198(E) dated the 3rd April, 1980.

(xx) GSR 206 (E) and 207 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th April, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum re-

garding duty free import of materials against REP Lincence issued under the imports (Control) Order, 1955.

(xxi) GSR 208 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th April, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding modification and enlargement of the list of materials, allowed to be imported duty free against Advance Licences for export production.

(xxii) GSR 209 (E) and 210 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th April, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding extension of exemption to goods imported for use within Kandla Free Trade Zone for production of goods for export from Customs Duty.

(xxiii) GSR 212 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th April, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Pound Sterling into Indian Currency or *vice-versa* in supersession to Notification No. GSR 205 (E) dated the 14th April, 1980.

(xxiv) GSR 213 (E) and 214 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th April, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to aluminium wire rods or aluminium ingots from Customs Duty.

(xxv) GSR 215 (E) and 216 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th April, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to aluminium scrap from part of basic duty and whole of auxiliary and additional duties.

(xxvi) GSR 217 (E) and 218 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to glass shell

for manufacture of electric lamps from basic duty in excess of 10 per cent *ad valorem* and whole of auxiliary duty.

(xxvii) GSR 233 (E) and 234 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding special tariff rates of customs duty on specified Goods imported from Laos.

(xxviii) GSR 239 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Pound Sterling into Indian Currency or *vice-versa* in supersession of Notification No. GSR 212 (E) dated the 18th April, 1980.

(xxix) GSR 480 published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding extension of exemption of goods required for the construction of, or fitment to the ships of the Indian Navy from Customs Duty.

(xxx) GSR 260 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum revising guidelines laid down by I.S.I. for identification of finished, leather.

(xxxi) GSR 264 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th May, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum fixing percentage of waste/scrap of Industrial chains manufactured in the Kandla Free Trade Zone.

(xxxii) GSR 568 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th May, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum authorising Commissioner of Industries of States also for issue of end use certificates to importers for concessional Customs Duty.

(xxxiii) GSR 263 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th

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May, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Swiss Francs into Indian currency or vice-versa.

(xxxiv) GSR 265 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Pound Sterling into Indian currency or vice-versa in supersession of Notification No. GSR 239 (E) dated the 25th April, 1980.

(xxxv) GSR 268 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th May, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Japanese Yen into Indian currency or vice-versa.

(xxxvi) GSR (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd May, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Pound Sterling into Indian currency or vice-versa, in supersession of Notification No. GSR 265 (E) dated the 16th May, 1980.

(xxxvii) GSR 282(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Pound Sterling into Indian currency or vice-versa in supersession of Notification No. GSR 276(E) dated the 23rd, May 1980.

(xxxviii) GSR 297 (E) and 298 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum exempting Potassium Sulphate containing not more than 52 per cent, by weight of Urea, Composite Fertilizers Di-Ammonium Phosphate,

Ammonium Nitro-Phosphate, Ammonium Phosphate Muriate of Potash and Kyanite salts from auxiliary duty of Customs. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-859/80].

(8) A copy each of Notification Nos. GSR 132 (E) and 133 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying areas along Indo-Pakistan and Indo-Nepal borders as being vulnerable to smuggling and also specifying silver bullion and coins exceeding market value of Rupees one thousand as goods requiring transport vouchers, issued under section 11-H and 11-K of the Customs Act, 1962, respectively. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-860/80].

(9) A copy of the Twelfth Valuation Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India as on the 31st March, 1979, under section 29 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-861/80.]

12.05 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

SERIOUS DROUGHT SITUATION IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur): I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

“Serious drought situation in various parts of the country.”

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): On the 17th March, 1980 in

this House I had given some details about the drought conditions through which a large part of our country has been passing since last year. The onset of the monsoon last year was delayed by about a fortnight and there have been continuous dry spells stretching from 4 to 9 weeks till the end of August, 1979. Eleven States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh were particularly affected by drought. The rainfall from October, 1979 to May, 1980 continued to be deficient of scanty practically in all these States so much so that the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and even Gujarat sought Central assistance during the current financial year. In the eleven States mentioned earlier 220 million people and a cropped area of 38.6 million ha were affected. The twelfth States of Gujarat has reported 6 million people and 1.1 million hectares of cropped area to have been affected by drought.

As I had indicated in my statement of March this year, on the basis of the recommendations of the Central Teams and of the High Level Committee on Relief, ceilings of expenditure amounting to a total of Rs. 156.95 crores had been approved by the Government of India for the purposes of Central assistance to the eleven drought affected States during 1979-80. During the current financial year requests for more Central assistance were received from eight States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Their requests were considered immediately. The Central Teams visited the States again and on the basis of the recommendations of the Central Teams, further expenditure amounting to Rs. 177.37 crores was sanctioned for six of the States. Central

assistance to the remaining States of Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat is under active consideration. The Central assistance sanctioned so far includes Rs. 22.39 crores for subsidy to the small and marginal farmers for agricultural inputs, Rs. 59.87 crores for drinking water schemes, Rs. 179.50 crores for employment generation schemes and Rs. 65.11 crores for gratuitous relief, fodder and transportation of water, etc.

Besides the above, the Central Government advanced a total short-term agricultural loan of Rs. 163.10 crores to the drought affected States since kharif last year.

Over and above the monetary assistance, the Central Government released to the drought affected States a total quantity of 27.20 lakh tonnes of foodgrains during 1979-80 and allocated a further amount of 9.17 lakh tonnes during the current financial year. For pre-school children, pregnant and nursing mothers, aged, infirm and physically handicapped persons, 1 lakh tonnes of foodgrains were provided as also 2500 Metric Tonnes of edible oil and 1500 tonnes of skimmed milk powder.

The scheme of giving subsidy for seeds, pesticides, and fertilisers including nitrogenous fertilisers for the small and marginal farmers in the monocropped area where the damages have been more than 50 per cent has also been extended upto September this year. The interest liability on current loans in areas where the crop loss was more than 50 per cent was also waived under certain conditions.

I myself wrote to the Chief Ministers/Governors of the drought affected States to accord the highest priority to agriculture, so that the demand of diesel for agriculture can be met in full. We had also advised the State Governments that at least 50 to 60 per cent of the electric power should be made available to the rural areas for rabi production, if necessary by

[Shri Birendra Singh Rao]

curtailing consumption of power intensive consumers like arc-furnaces, steel-rolling mills, etc.

As the summer set in, availability of drinking water posed serious problem in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal. About 50,000 villages have experienced serious shortage of drinking water. The Prime Minister has been extremely concerned about this problem and at her instance the States of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Karnataka and Maharashtra gave massive help to the drought affected States by sending their own rigs along with the crew for boring drinking water wells in the hard rock areas, and 72 such rigs are working on multi-shift basis in the affected States. In April this year the Cabinet agreed to sanction Rs. 11 crores for purchase of 98 indigenous rigs and Rs. 4 crores for 10 Swedish rigs for supply to the drought affected States. At present in all about 300 fast sophisticated rigs and 1000 slow rigs with a monthly capacity of 4000 borings are operating in the affected areas. The assistance of the Armed Forces and the Railways has been made liberally available to the States for transport of water to the remote villages.

The Prime Minister herself has been touring the remote desert, tribal and other areas affected by drought in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa. A 12-Point Programme on Drought Management was recommended to the States and Central Ministries were requested to give all assistance to the States in meeting the situation. The Drought Management Programme provides for appointment of full-time officers, setting up of monitoring cells, strengthening of public distribution system for supply of foodgrains, edible oil and kerosene, curbing the anti-social elements who try to exploit the scarcity conditions, effective implementation of

Food-for-Work Programme by ensuring continuity of work and regular payment, mounting of massive afforestation programme, contingency plans for supply of water to the affected villages and setting up of cattle and relief camps. I also visited the affected States of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, Gujarat, West Bengal and Haryana while my other colleagues also visited the drought affected areas of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh on the directions of the Prime Minister.

A Task Force in the Department of Agriculture as well as a monitoring group of the Department of Food have been regularly monitoring the movement of foodgrains, allocation of diesel, deployment of rigs for drinking water, etc. in consultation with the various Departments of the Central Government and the Railways and also the resident representatives of the State Governments in Delhi.

A Weather Watch Group has also been functioning in my Ministry since last year for keeping a watch on the weather situation and advising the farmers and the State Governments.

It is said that in its intensity and spread, the current drought has been the worst in the living memory. However, it should be a matter of great pride for all of us that we have not asked for a single grain of food from any country and have not allowed a single starvation death. By the end of last month more than 65 lakh persons were being employed daily in the drought affected States. Many drought affected villages have now permanent source of drinking water through the massive programme of boring wells in the drought affected hard rock areas that was taken up since the beginning of the year. Out of 50,000 villages seriously affected by drinking water scarcity about 32,000 villages have been covered already by our programme of providing durable sources of drinking water.

Though we are not yet completely out of the woods, I can say with confidence that the situation has been handled by the Central and the State Government during the last few months with complete dedication and is fully under control. The manner in which the drought has been managed on the various fronts of agriculture, drinking water and relief deserves commendation from all quarters.

Fortunately, this year the onset of the monsoon wherever due has been on time and the western coast, West Bengal, the North Eastern region and many of the drought affected areas have received welcome rains since the beginning of this month. The behaviour of the monsoon so far has been satisfactory but is being closely watched. We are advised that the monsoon is likely to be normal in the Peninsular area and slightly above normal in the North-western parts of the country. I can only hope that our expectations will come true but nevertheless we have always to be prepared for the worst both on the long-term as well as short-term basis. In the formulation of the revised Sixth Plan we will be taking due account of the long-term measures which will mitigate the effects of recurrent drought, floods cyclones, etc., which visit the various parts of our country from time to time.

While concluding, I must salute the Indian farmer who has been braving the drought with fortitude, patience and enterprise. In spite of the fact that about 38 million hectares of cropped area was affected, the shortfall in the production of foodgrains during the Kharif season was about 14 to 15 million tonnes with a small shortfall in Rabi production. Our irrigated areas especially in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh gave an extremely good account of themselves in insulating agricultural production from the effects of drought. With proper land and water management and a scientific cropping pattern based on identified

meteorological behaviour, we hope to mitigate the effects of drought in a more effective manner.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: As is clear from the Hon. Minister's report and also from Press reports, the present drought happens to be the worst since Independence and since the time we can think of—that is, in living memory. It is not only in India but also in other parts of the world, even the World Food Council has warned of a decade of famine in the years to come. All that is required is that we have to plan ahead and plan well.

In various parts of the country the situation is very serious on three fronts. One is that of drinking water. In most of the areas, especially in our State of Himachal Pradesh and areas bordering the State of Punjab and some places in Uttar Pradesh we find that even the perennial sources from where the water used to flow down to the plains have been going dry and the water level in the lakes has gone so low that it has become virtually impossible for people to carry water from there. There is a very famous lake called the Renuka Lake in Sirsa District, which has recorded the lowest level for the first time in the century. Similarly in the Rewalsar Lake, which is very famous for the Buddhist Temple the water level has gone down at the moment.

Apart from this our suffering has been increased by the fact that all these things which the Minister has pointed out, that is, carrying water by railway trains and Army trucks etc., have not been sufficient in States like Himachal Pradesh because the villages are located in places where no roads are there. Naturally, water pitchers have to be carried on the head; and long queues of people can be seen. So, immediate arrangements for supplying water for drinking purposes in villages have to be thought of as an immediate measure.

The Minister has made a statement regarding provision of Central assistance

[Prof. Narain Chand Parashar]

tance for the State of Himachal Pradesh. He has indicated that it is under active consideration. Sir, the monsoon may come within a month or within a fortnight, but our point is that it will not solve the problem because grass will not grow immediately and the drinking water has to be regulated for the purpose of drinking. Therefore, the task is more difficult than can be imagined: it cannot be solved by the onset of monsoon. We have to plan for immediate assistance for supply of water for drinking purposes to the people. What has happened is that even people in villages where there used to be water, have moved with the cattle and the cattle has come to the riverside, mostly from Himachal. They have come down to the Sutlej and other areas, and the movement of cattle has created another problem—that is, the problem of fodder. We find that fodder has to be rushed to these places.

The last and the most serious problem is that of food under the Food for Work Programme. The Hon. Minister has been indicating certain allocations but I find a very interesting restriction. The Planning Commission has evolved a formula whereby only 5 per cent of the Annual Plan allocation can be given as financial assistance under the programme for relief work. I do not find any justification for this because in one State it may be more serious and in another State it may be less serious. So, why stick to this rigid formula? May I ask the Minister to kindly explain how this is going to be implemented because I find from his own statement that whereas the ceiling fixed by the Planning Commission was earlier Rs. 145 crores, increased assistance to the State was given by this very Government—the Central Government—keeping in view the serious situation, and Rs. 17 crores was given in addition to this Rs. 145 crores. So, what I can find out from the formula is that the ceiling was rather too low and the requirement was very high.

Therefore, we have to plan in such a manner that the requirements are met.

In the case of Himachal Pradesh, our Chief Minister and we Members of Parliament from Himachal Pradesh met the Hon. Minister day before yesterday and made a request to him to allot immediately 10,000 tons of foodgrains because, while our requirement for the year is 60,000 tons of foodgrains, we immediately require ten to fifteen thousand tons. The problems of Himachal Pradesh and similar hill States are different from other States because where, with the onset of monsoons the problems of other States would be almost over, in Himachal Pradesh they would not be over because there are lands where there would be certain blockades on roads and movement by buses and trucks would be blocked, and it would be difficult for the people to reach the interior. So the State machinery has to be evolved and energised in such a manner that we can meet the needs of every human being. The Himachal Pradesh Government has been doing well on this front but the resources have been very limited. We have been supplying water by trucks. About 205 points of distribution of drinking water were fixed by the State Government and water was carried but, as I have pointed out earlier, there are hills and hills and on those hills the people live—where trucks cannot go and mules cannot go—and pitchers of water have to be carried. For this we need increased assistance. Any formula which is applicable to the plains for drought relief assistance will not be adequate for hilly places like Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and other such areas. So, I would request the hon. Minister to point out clearly that this limit of five per cent of Annual Plan expenditure for relief work will not be adhered to strictly in the case of Himachal Pradesh.

Secondly, a permanent solution to this problem by the setting up of Water Development Boards in every

State with the help of State Government and Central Government would also be a step in the right direction. They should be manned properly. Here, I refer to a report that has appeared in the *Hindu* of 4th June.

MR. SPEAKER: Please try to conclude.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: The report that has appeared in the *Hindu* says that the Water Board in States where they have allegedly been set up, like that in Bihar, are not functioning properly because of the technical knowhow being lacking. So, I request the hon. Minister to see that this permanent problem of drought-prone areas is solved to an extent that it does not recur again. It is a point to be considered that, initially, for many years, drought has been there in our country; about 20 per cent of the area and twelve per cent of the population are subject to drought every year. When this is the problem, I would require his attention on two fronts: number one, immediate solution; and number two, permanent solution....

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: For immediate solution, I would request him to pay immediate attention to food-for-work programme, fodder and drinking water.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: We are fully conscious of the serious problem being faced by Himachal Pradesh. Only the other day, the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, along with the hon. Member, Prof. Narain Chand Parashar, met me. We had already sent a Central Team, by about the end of May, to visit Himachal Pradesh. Their report has been received, and we are trying to meet the demands of Himachal Pradesh to the extent that we can possibly do. 8,000 tonnes of foodgrains for Food-For-Work-Programme were allotted last year. This year we are going to al-

locate a substantial quantity on the recommendation of the Central Team which visited the State for the second time at the request of the State Government and according to the demands made by the Chief Minister. I hope there will be no difficulty in carrying on the Food-For-Work-Programme for employment generation and to meet the immediate demands of the poverty-stricken people.

The difficulties in supplying drinking water to the villages in the hilly areas, mentioned by the hon. Member, are quite genuine. I can assure the House that all expenditure on supply of drinking water to the needy villages will be fully met by the Central Government.

AN HON. MEMBER: In all the States?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: I am talking about Himachal Pradesh. If there is a similar demand and there are the same type of difficulties in other States, that will also be considered.

He has mentioned about the ceiling of five per cent laid down by the Planning Commission. There is no difficulty in considering a larger demand on merits in the case of Himachal Pradesh. As I have said, we have already received the report of the Central Team. The damage due to drought has been very extensive in Himachal Pradesh. There has been 50 to 90 per cent damage to the crops. The apple crop has also been very badly affected. We are proposing to provide a substantial amount to meet their requirements.

As regards additional foodgrains, we have already received the recommendations, as I have said. The demand of the Himachal Pradesh Government is for 10,000 tonnes more, and I hope that we shall be able to fully meet their demand; we shall take a decision today or tomorrow. I do not think that there is anything else I have to answer.

[Shri Birendra Singh Rao]

With regard to Water Board for the whole of India it is a good suggestion for consideration. We are taking measures, as I said in my statement, for mitigating these difficulties on a long-term basis.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambarpur): The Minister has given a beautiful picture for combating the drought situation in the country. Actually, this year throughout the country people have suffered and particularly, more so in Orissa. The Orissa government has submitted a report to the Central Government. Out of 3600 Gram Panchayats, two-thirds have been affected by a severe drought and most of those are in the western part of the State—that is nearly 1440 Panchayats are chronically drought-affected. May I know from the Minister how many times the central teams have visited Orissa and what was their recommendation and how many times the State Government has given memorandum to the Ministry of Agriculture and even to the Prime Minister?

The Minister has also given us a very beautiful picture for combating the drinking water scarcity, for supplying fodder to the cattle and also of the food for work programme. The

12.27 hrs.

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil in the chair]

picture is not so bright especially in Orissa because people are leaving their hearths and homes to different parts of the State and from places of chronic drought to irrigated areas and other places where they are getting employment. May I know from the Minister what was the requirement of foodgrains which was given by the State Government last year and this year and what was the allocation? I know from the State Government officials that in the food for work programme, the food has not reached the destination in time and

people as a result have suffered a lot and they are suffering from a severe anaemia and hypo-protein-anaemi in most of the western districts of Orissa like Padampur sub-division, Naopara, Bangomunda, Khaprakhal and Chandahandi. In 1965 the drought condition was not so much and the central assistance has reached the States in a very big way but this time I am afraid the Minister has not felt the need of the people of the western districts of the State because now also if a parliamentary committee will go and visit those areas which I mentioned just now as chronically drought-affected areas, they will see that people are in chronic starvation and are suffering from acute anaemia.

With regard to drinking water, in the highlands more than 50 per cent of the villages do not have any drinking water and in the western districts particularly, more than 60 per cent of the villages are suffering for want of drinking water and the cattle also do not have any water or fodder and are dying. It is not a fact that the cattle got the necessary fodder and the people are having the drinking water facility. May I know from the Minister what was the requirement of foodgrains and fodder which was given by the State Government and what was the supply. I am pleading that the State's plan does not provide so much to combat the drought situation in a big way. At the same time, the Prime Minister has also felt that more than 70 per cent of the people of Orissa are below the poverty line and Orissa, as you know, is always in the grips of a drought, floods and cyclone. For that reason, I will urge upon the Minister as to what are the measures taken this year. Though it is a State subject, the State machinery previously was not in a position to combat the situation. So they have asked for central assistance. I understand the State has asked for an assistance of Rs. 55 crores from the centre....

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member should ask the question.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: I am asking the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It cannot be so big.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Unless the picture is given, I think the Minister will not be able to reply properly.

I will now put a categorical question. For solving the drinking water problem, I want to know, what permanent measures is the government going to take? I would urge upon the Minister that special attention should be given to the State of Orissa. Will the Minister agree to my proposals?

Secondly, I want to know whether there are more than 1440 Gram Panchayats in Orissa which are chronically drought affected for more than 3 years and 50 per cent of the crops have been lost in the last six years.

That was the pattern in Maharashtra and other States. I want to know whether the Government of India will agree to this proposal. The Finance Minister has categorically asked all the M.Ps of Orissa to come with a proposal to write off of loans of all types in those areas—because there is no differentiation between small, marginal and medium farmers as all are suffering.

May I request the Minister to answer categorically what was the proposal from the State Government about the writing off of loans to the Finance Ministry and whether Government is considering the writing off of the loans in those chronically drought affected areas? If the answer is in the affirmative, then what was the pattern?

Secondly, for the food for work programme, what is the allocation to be made for the coming year? Comparing the situation for employment in the State, what would be the requirement....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I draw the attention of the hon. Member to Rule 197(20) which says:

"There shall be no debate on such statement at the time it is made but each member in whose name the item stands in the list of business may, with the permission of the Speaker, as a question;"

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Already I have asked many questions. I hope the Minister will reply.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Sir, I rise on a point of order. Would you kindly enlighten the House as to how much time was given to Shri Narain Chand Parashar? Kindly get it from the Table.

There should not be a double standard. There should be one standard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not a point of order. The hon. Minister may please go ahead with his reply.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: I am not in a position to say anything categorically about the demand of the State Government for writing off of the loans. When a decision is taken by the the Finance Ministry, it will be conveyed to the State Government.

We have taken good care to see that employment is provided to the people in Orissa. The food for work programme is in full swing. I am happy to tell you that there is no migration from any area due to drought to any other area. It is because in Orissa employment has been provided to the people under the food for work programme.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK (Kendrapara): The Minister perhaps has no idea.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: When Mr. Biju Patnaik was in power here, in the year 1979-80, for the first time, allocation was made for drought

[Shri Birendra Singh Rao]

relief. Only Rs. 14 crores was sanctioned then. But, on the recommendations of Orissa Government, latter on, after this Government took over, within ten days, the Central Team visited the State for the second time and I am glad to say that Rs. 17.39 crores additional sanction was given to the State for drought.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना): उसका इस्तेमाल हो रहा है या नहीं असल सवाल यह है।

श्री बीरेन्द्र सिंह रावः पूरा हो रहा है, फिर मत कीजिए, आप बिहार की फिर कीजिए।

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: With the monsoon coming in, will you kindly explain what was the work done there? Why are you trying to bluff?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: In the year 1979-80, a total of 2.77 lakhs tonnes of foodgrains was allocated to Orissa. On the demand of the Orissa Government, for these three months, we have released an additional quantity of 12,000 tonnes under the normal food for work programme and another 70,000 tonnes for the special food for work programme. That will look after the problem upto the end of this month and there have been frailly good rains already in Orissa. I hope grass will be growing soon and there will be no danger of cattle perishing now. We have got over the difficulties by the grace of God. Although cattle camps are the responsibility of the State government we are providing all help to the State government and we have not received any complaint about cattle perishing for lack of provision of fodder.

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN (Adoor): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Minister in his long statement had drawn out a rosy picture in regard to the

settling of the drought situation. In his statement he says:

"Though we are not yet completely out of the woods, I can say with confidence that the situation has been handled by the Central and State Governments during the last few month with complete dedication and is fully under control."

He has also that not a single starvation death has been reported and not a single cattle has been allowed to perish whereas in another part of his statement he says:

"It is said that in its intensity and spread, the current drought has been the worst in the living memory."

Now, Sir, the reality is that starvation deaths have taken place and large-scale migrations have taken place not only in one State but in several States. I can tell you from my own experience as one who works among the rural poors that a large number of agricultural workers and other rural workers have migrated from the villages and are wandering in the urban areas. People from Madhya Pradesh have gone to Punjab and Haryana and he says that no migration has taken place.

Sir, though according to him everything is going smoothly and according to schedule I want to ask him some pointed questions. Firstly, whether some complaints have been received that adequate quantities of foodgrains have not been received by some States under this food for work programme and whether there also has been the complaint that the foodgrains allotted to some States under this programme have not been fully utilised. Secondly, whether there was a report about serious corruption in handling food for work programme. Whether any such complaint has come to his notice and, if so, whether any investigation has been made and what are the results thereof. What is the total number

of actual destitutes affected by drought and how many of them are provided with the free food?

Now, Sir, with regard to the long-term measures, it is, I suppose, within the knowledge of the Minister, that there are certain areas in the country which are affected chronically almost by drought not only this year, but almost every year. Of course this year's condition is really unprecedented. But almost every year such things happen in some areas in certain States. I want to ask him: What long-term measures are being taken to solve the problem of these chronically-affected States? Is there any thinking at all on the part of the Government to set up a Drought Control Board especially for solving the problem of these chronically drought-affected areas? This is my question, Sir.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: Sir, the Member perhaps misunderstood me when I said that there had been no migration from the drought-affected areas. I was only replying to the question raised by the hon. Member from Orissa and what I said was in relation to the condition in that State only. I know that more about 3.55 lakh people are being employed daily in Orissa under the 'Food-for-work' programme. In certain States like Rajasthan migration is a sort of normal feature. Every year some people migrate from one area to another and I would say that my statement does not cover the whole of the country.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Does he know that 11 lakhs of people in Orissa migrated during this drought period? It was 11 lakhs.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: As regards drinking water we have provided a very large number of rigs--fast and slow rigs--for boring tube wells, to provide permanent sources for supply of drinking water in the villages. As I have already stated in my detailed statement, more than 32,000 villages have already been covered. Every State has a large number of rigs. We have already sent this to them.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Are they working?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: These tube-wells are working.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: All of them?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: 75 per cent of them are not working.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: Sir, they have been sent only to provide water and not to remain idle. As regards the destitutes, free food for work is provided for them under the Food for Nutrition Programme. And for that purpose separate quantity of food-grains has been provided as has been stated in my detailed statement.

Then, Sir, I do not have any firm figures which have been received from any of these States as to the number of destitutes. This is an area where there is responsibility on the part of State Governments. We give them additional food, as also skimmed milk-powder and edible oil for running camps for the destitutes, old and infirm people, etc.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: It does not reach them in time.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: As regards the establishment of a Board as the Member pointed out, our party said in its manifesto that a National Disaster Commission would be set up. Sir, the matter is still under consideration. But I wish to point out this that we have already got a mechanism for providing relief immediately for persons affected due to natural calamities like flood or cyclone or drought. So, we have already got a mechanism and there is no difficulty on that account; and if necessary, we will do something more and decision will be taken soon about it.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Pansikura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, according to your strict instructions I go into the question almost directly--only

[Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee]

please allow me one minute and I start first with offering my wonder-inspired congratulation at the Minister's capacity to live in a make-belief world in such a big way. I had gone through some of these States during the election period. My question is this. Is he not aware, is his Ministry not aware of the fact that in the State of Bihar the Food-for-work programme has become really an instrument for looting the people by the contractors and many of the officers and I do believe that this is also done in collaboration with some members of the ruling party. Will the Minister enquire into how in Bihar the food under 'Food for Work' was utilised during the Presidents rule and upto the elections? Is it a fact that in Bihar, the CPI Unit of Bihar complained to the Government about 12 starvation deaths? Will the Minister go into the matter and find out the facts? Is the Minister aware that the CPI Unit in Bihar has alleged that the Famine Code is not being followed there? As you know, it is a must for drought relief. Will he enquire into this and find out whether it is a fact?

As far as I am concerned, my own experience in Bihar says that the beauty of the statement which has been made here lies only in this print, paper and stationery and it is not reflected in the actual lives of the people there. Will the Minister go into the tall claims about supply of drinking water? Is it not a fact that a wide section of the press reported during the days of election campaign that many of the Government projects were to be seen only on papers. When they got down to examine, they found that many of the projects were not to be seen anywhere. In the district of Mirzapur in U.P. in one of the blocks it was said that all ponds had been filled with water, but the correspondents of many newspapers reported that all the ponds were actually dry. What has actually happened to the drinking water projects? Will the Minister go into the

question of how all the rigs worked? I must say that though the rigs were there, they did not work either due to the failure of electricity, or absence of petrol, or non-availability of spare parts. Will the hon. Minister go into the various aspects of this?

In my own State, in the drought-affected areas, this year, the 'Food for Work' programme did not work as it should have been during the famine days. Is the Minister aware of its reason? It was because of the shortage of rail wagons for transporting the foodgrains. Will the Minister sanction to the State of West Bengal central funds for providing drinking water to the districts of Bankura, Purulia, West Midnapur and part of Birbhum as being requested from here

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: The hon. Member while talking about looting at the hands of contractors and mal-practices in running the 'Food for Work' programme was perhaps thinking of the conditions prevailing before January this year....(Interruptions). Things have improved vastly since this Government took over and after the President's rule in Bihar. I have been personally to Bihar and West(Interruptions). I can state categorically that contractors have been totally eliminated from this programme according to our guidelines since we have started looking after the administration in Bihar. There have been no starvation deaths, as alleged by the hon. lady Member.

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: A letter has been written to the Governor giving instances.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA (Serampur): It has appeared in the newspapers.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: There were some complaints about the Famine Code not being enforced in Bihar, before this Government took over. But at present it is being implemented fully. (Interruptions) we have written to the Bihar Governor time and again, and it is his positive report that

the Famine Code is being followed in Bihar.

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: No, not at all.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: With regard to the hon. lady Member's question about West Bengal, that State was visited by Central teams, twice. When I went to West Bengal, I came to know that some districts had difficulties about drinking water. Famine was serious there. I asked the West Bengal officers why they had not finalised indents for any rigs; and at my instance, they have finalised order for rigs for installing tube-wells. That programme is being followed. (Interruptions) For the Food for Work Programme in West Bengal, sufficient foodgrains were provided. (Interruptions) Out of a total of 2.45 lakh tonnes of foodgrains, West Bengal has failed to submit utilization certificates even for 50 per cent.

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI:
What about other States?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO:
We had sent officers for enquiring as to how foodgrains meant for the Food for Work Programme were utilized. (Interruptions) And the enquiry reveals that the foodgrains meant for that Programme, i.e. for providing relief to the poor people to the small and marginal farmers and agricultural workers, have been utilized, in many instances in West Bengal, to give help to private landowners to repair their private tanks—against our guidelines and (Interruptions) to level the fields. (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will request Members not to interrupt.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, I am suffering from ear pain. He is making a mistake between rigs and rigging.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bosu, the answer to your Member's question is affected, when you are interrupting like this.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: If some hon. Members feel that proper assistance, in monetary terms, has not been given to West Bengal, I would like to tell them that while we have sent Central teams to various States, on the asking of the State Governments, the West Bengal Government has so far not approached the Central Government to send a team again to see the drought situation there. In the case of West Bengal, we have been extremely considerate and soft even though the conditions were not fulfilled for the release of further quantity of foodgrains for food for work programme. On the spot, I released 20,000 tonnes against our policy for West Bengal just to provide relief to the people in seriously affected districts, because we do not want that for lack of any compliance of Central Government's guidelines or directives by the West Bengal Government, the poor people should suffer.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I think you will allow me to put a question arising out of the statement which has already been read by the hon. Minister and also the statement he had made in course of his reply to the supplementaries. My first question is that the statement betrays lack of proper understanding, particularly in relation to the magnitude and depth of the problem. There is a total lack of scientific approach to the problem.

The approach is something like a fire fighting operation than to have a comprehensive strategic policy to deal with the drought itself and the

[Shri Chitta Basu]

drought prone area to have a comprehensive policy to meet the exigency arising out of the drought. It is necessary to have a comprehensive programme of development of drought prone area. I think Mr. Chairman, you would agree that the statement does not reflect any of that approach which is needed now very much seriously. My second question is whether the government considers it desirable to completely change the approach in the matter of drought management which is the perennial source of distress, hardship and suffering to a large number of people of our country spread in different parts of the country. In the course of his statement, he has given figures. I do not want to quote them in order to save time. Central assistance has been given to several State Governments. Would the hon. Minister take pains to explain whether this central assistance which has already been given, sanctioned for the State Governments is in the nature of advance plan assistance or in the nature of outright grant. The question is that if the government is serious to provide relief, succour to the drought stricken people, they should give it as an outright assistance, not as advance plan assistance, because the concept of advance plan assistance denudes the State Governments of the right or the possibility or the scope to develop their own States in accordance with the plan frame. Therefore, that is the point which requires to be clear. Another point is about the brave performance his government has made with regard to supply of drinking water. With your permission, I would like to quote from the editorial of the *Statesman* dated 27th May, 1980. It says:

"A survey of 1971-72 showed that only 24,000 out of 5,76,000 villages in the country had reasonably protected water supply. The rest had inadequate or unsafe drinking water in varying degrees. Some 1,53,000 villages identified as problem vil-

lages had either no water within easy access or only water....."

13 hrs.

"Of this 1,30,000 still remain to get water." The *Statesman* editorial says that there are still 1,30,000 villages which are to be provided with protected drinking water.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is exactly 1 p. m. now and should rise for lunch. Then the hon. Minister would reply to him and then we would rise for lunch. Now, please conclude.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I have no complaint against the Minister. My complaint is that in the statement the government has expressed a spirit of complacency. The allotment for drinking water is only Rs. 58 crores. This is a paltry sum and it cannot solve the problem of water famine. Would the government see that in order to combat the problem of water famine larger amounts of money are placed at the disposal of the State governments so that water famine can be combated in a proper way.

Lastly the hon. Minister has in his wisdom indulged in certain vituperation against the government of West Bengal. He says that utilisation certificates were not available as required by the government of India from the West Bengal government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put forth your question. Rules do not permit for a debate like this.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Because he has indulged in vituperation, I have to say this. You cannot allow the Minister to go scotfree after saying something which is not correct. (Interruptions). According to the government of West Bengal the total quantity of food for work was to the tune of 1,64,000 and utilisations certificate was given for 1,32,000 and only in respect of 32,000 it remains to be given. I think there were certain difficulties in some panchayats

How is it that the Ministers of the Central Government, without informing the Chief Minister or the State Relief and Rehabilitation Minister of the Government of West Bengal, go and get in touch with the Chief Secretary or the departmental secretary? Is it not contrary to the normal behaviour expected of a Central Minister. He comes here and says something which is against the Government of West Bengal. He should be ashamed of his behaviour, he should be pulled up by you.

An Hon. Member: He should answer this question: is he ashamed

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: The statement does not find favour with the hon. Member. In the factual statement, we wanted to inform the House in detail about the problems that this government had to face and the measures we have so far taken to face those problems. He has been touched by my statement on West Bengal.

I think, as I have earlier stated we have been more than good in case of West Bengal throughout. Out of a total food grain allocation of 2.45 plus 20,000 that we specially released, the West Bengal Government has upto-date sent us utilisation certificates only for 1.26 lakh tonnes. I hope the hon. Member will take up the matter with the West Bengal Government.

He has mentioned about my visit to West Bengal. Of course my visit as a Minister of this Government was intimated to the West Bengal Government. Some officers of the Government came to meet me because I had stated that I wanted to discuss all the problems about drought drinking water, food for work programme and other things.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: But there is a method. (Interruptions).

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: I do not know, I do not mind at all. I do not know; how could the Chief

Secretary come without the permission of the Chief Minister? How can it be said that the Ministers and the Chief Minister were not informed and yet all the officers of the Government came to the meeting? Anyway.....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: They were courteous to you. It was necessary on your part to be courteous to the Chief Minister and the Cabinet and to seek permission. It was a courtesy.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: I am courteous to you, my friend, Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu. I am bound to be more courteous to others in West Bengal.

SHRI ANANDA GOPAL MUKHOPADHYAY (Asansol): The Deputy Chief Minister, West Bengal Shri Jyotirmoy Bous is here.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: I was asked about the financial assistance that Government provided.

Plan assistance, Advance Plan assistance and non-Plan assistance—quite a substantial portion of it is gratuitous relief on account of drought.

West Bengal has received the largest financial assistance of all the States in the country. The total margin money in case of West Bengal was Rs. 13.04 crores, whereas even in the case of a large State like Uttar Pradesh, it is only Rs. 10 crores. You should be quite happy about that. (Interruptions). You should be very happy. I hope you will be grateful too.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: We are very happy with your presence in the House.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: Rs. 8.94 crores is gratuitous relief. That should set the doubts at rest. (Interruptions).

[Shri Birendra Singh Rao]

We have already taken long term measures for making permanent arrangements for drinking water supply and for reducing the hardships in future on account of drought. As the hon. Members know various schemes have been launched like the drought prone areas programme and the Desert Development Programme. There is an All India Co-ordinated Dry Land Agricultural Project for development of areas which are frequently affected by drought. Then in the matter of water supply, we are taking special care that all these villages which lack good sources of drinking water should be provided drinking water supplies and a large number of rigs have already been provided. We have also raised the allocation under the Central Scheme for Water Supplies—from Rs. 60 crores to Rs. 80 crores, this year.

That is only to meet the problem of drinking water which a very large number of villages are facing in India.

13.11 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for lunch till ten minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Fifteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV in the Chair]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing 16th June, 1980, will consist of:—

(1) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's order paper.

(2) General discussion on the Railway Budget of 1980-81 from 17th June, 1980 onwards.

(3) Consideration of a motion for concurrence for reference of the Visva Bharati (Amendment) Bill, 1978 to a Joint Committee.

(4) Consideration and passing of:—

- (a) The Company Secretaries Bill, 1980.
- (b) The Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 1980.

(5) General discussion on the General Budget for 1980-81 from 21st June, 1980 onwards.

As members are already aware the Railway Budget for 1980-81 will be presented on Monday the 16th June, 1980, after disposal of questions and the General Budget for 1980-81 on Wednesday the 18th June, 1980 at 5.00 P.M.

श्रीमती प्रसिला दंडवते (बम्बई उत्तर मध्य): सभापति महोदय, लोक सभा के अधिवेशन के ता. 16 से शुरू होने वाले सप्ताह के बिजनेस में मैं निम्नलिखित तीन आइटम्ज को इन्कालूड करने की प्रार्थना कर रही हूँ—

Violation of the Flag Code by citizens and institutions.

इस आइटम को इस में शामिल किया जाय।

As per Flag Code of India Section 4, Sub-Section (4) "Incorrect Display of National Flag" is an offence. Sub-section (4) of Section 4 states. "The flags shall not be used as a Feston, Rosette or hunting or in any other manner for decoration, nor shall other coloured pieces of cloth be so arranged as to give the appearance of the National Flag."

The above said display of flags was recorded as a corrupt practice under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, vide Section 123 (3).

पिछले चुनाव में कांग्रेस (आई) की ओर से नेशनल फ्लैग का इस्तेमाल चुनाव के लिए

किया गया। मैं एक फलैग लाई हूँ—इसके बीच मैं हाथ का निशान लगा है।

According to the rule, it is the violation of the Flag Code.

इस के आधार पर दम्भई मे—

Mr. F. M. Pinto who is elected from Mahim and Mr. Eknath Koperde,

दोनों ने पुलिस में कम्प्लेट की है।
(Interruptions):

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen. Let the point be made so that the Minister can reply. Let him listen what is being said from that side.

श्रीमती प्रेमिला दण्डवते: मैं इस बारे में यह कहना है कि पर्दे देश में इस तरह से काम होता है। 'इण्डिया ट्रूडे' में एक फोटो छपी है, संजय गांधी के स्वागत के लिए मेरठ में एक प्रोग्राम किया गया, जिस में नेशनल फलैग के डेकोरेटिव-पीस की तरह से इस्तेमाल किया गया। अगर सत्तारूढ़ दल इस तरह की बात करता है तो हमारे देश की जनता फलैग के बारे में उचित बताव करने में असमर्थ रहेगी। इस लिए प्रार्थना है कि होम मिनिस्टर साहब इस के बारे में स्टेटमेंट दे।

दूसरा आइटम—

Insecurity to the Life of Women.

बाज हमें लैटर मिला है कि होम मिनिस्टर ने इस के बारे में क्या क्या स्टेप्स लिये हैं। लैकिन इन स्टेप्स के लेने के बावजूद चण्डी-गढ़ में 'भोली' नाम की 13 साल की लड़की के साथ बलात्कार किया गया, तीन नाभिवानों ने किया। अभी कल ही जय प्रकाश नारायण अस्पताल में एक ऐसी ही लड़की के साथ बलात्कार किया गया। सरला मुद्रगल नाम की हमारी एक सोशल वर्कर है, जो एन्टी-डावरी के काम के आर्गेनाइज करती है, उन के दफतर पर हमला किया गया। ये बातें बार-बार हो रही हैं। मैं यह कहना हूँ कि जो स्टेप्स आपने लिये हैं, वे काफी नहीं हैं। उस के ऊपर एक स्टेटमेंट होना चाहिए और उस पर जो सदन के माननीय सदस्यों के सुझाव होंगे, उन पर उचित कार्य-चाही होनी चाहिए।

तीसरा आइटम मेरा है—

'Unprecedented rise in the price of essential commodities and fertilisers'.

पिछले हफ्ते में हमारे यहां प्राइस इन्डेक्स 2 प्लाइट बढ़ गया।

It is unprecedented

2 प्लाइट प्राइस इन्डेक्स बढ़ गया। इस का असर यह होगा कि वर्कस' की तरफ से डियरनैस एलाउन्स बढ़ाने की मांग होगी और जब वह मिलेगा तो फिर उस का असर होने वाला है। अभी सरकार ने यूरिया फटीलाइजर की कीमत 38 पर सेन्ट बढ़ा दी। उसका भी असर होने वाला है। जनता पार्टी के राज्य में फटीलाइजर्स की कीमत एक टन पर 100 रुपये कम की राई थी, जिस के कारण फटीलाइजर्स का इस्तेमाल 28 पर सेन्ट बढ़ गया। आप ने फटीलाइजर्स की कीमत बढ़ा दी और कीमत बढ़ने की वजह से जो 135 मिलियन टन अनाज आप पैदा करना चाहते हैं, उस पर असर पड़ेगा।

सभापति महोबय: प्रो. दण्डवते।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (टटना): मेरा भी नाम है।

(अवधान) . . .

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): This is just an accident of the ballot, this is not a pre-arranged thing!

I would suggest to the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs that consideration of the following items may be included in the business for next week.

You may recall that in this very House many of us had raised the question of the complaints and demands of the onion growers in Maharashtra. We were assured by the Minister here on behalf of the Government that NAFED would be able to purchase these onions and the agriculturists would not be allowed to suffer. Mr. Speaker also expressed his sympathy for them. But that assurance has not been kept up in Maharashtra because NAFED was not able to purchase all the onions. After

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]

the rains on 31st May it was found that onions worth lakhs of rupees had been completely destroyed. They are rotting in the yards of Poona. Therefore, a statement should be made on this particular issue, since the assurance was given on the floor of the House.

Secondly, I wanted to raise a discussion on the statement of the Petroleum Minister regarding rise in prices, but since one of the hon. Member has raised it, I do not want to repeat it.

Thirdly, you probably know that in a section of the press news has appeared that the public sector fertiliser project that was started at Thal-vaisheth in the backward Konkan area of Maharashtra is likely to be shifted. On 9th May I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister requesting her to intervene in the matter. On 21st she sent a reply saying that she was not aware of any such proposal to shift the fertiliser project, but, that, keeping in view my letter, she would look into the matter. I hope she has looked into the matter. If she has done that, a categorical statement should come from the Government that this public sector factory will not be shifted. Fortunately, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra also comes from the backward region of Konkan, and I hope his statement, almost on the same lines, will also assist Government, and it will be seen to it that this project is not shifted. Only one more point. In the Fifth Lok Sabha, I had raised the question of long pending border dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra and I wanted that that should be settled without any acrimony. All the Opposition leaders and some of the Members of the ruling party i.e. the Congress Party had given in writing to the Prime Minister that the issue should be solved. I had initiated the discussion and the Prime Mi-

nister Mrs. Indira Gandhi made a personal request to me that I should not press for the discussion because there might be tension and I responded to her appeal and I said that I would not press for the discussion. She said that this issue would be settled before the coming Lok Sabha Elections. She said this in the Fifth Lok Sabha. But the matter is still pending. In the Janata Government, the then Home Minister, Shri H. M. Patel, had invited the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and Karnataka to come to Delhi and thrash out the issue once and for all and settle it amicably. Unfortunately the Chief Minister of Karnataka was ill and the result of that was, he could not come. In the meantime, the Government fell and therefore the matter remains pending. I am happy that the new Government has had some talks with the representatives of the border areas. I hope those efforts will be continued and that the border dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra will be settled amicably.

सभापति महादेव: श्री रामावतार शास्त्री। आपने विषय नहीं बताया है, लिख कर दिया है। आप अपनी बात बहुत संक्षेप में कहिये।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना): मैंने लिख कर दिया है। सभापति जी, अगले सप्ताह में सदन को किन-किन कामों को करना है, उनको हम ने सुना। मैं चाहता हूँ कि अगले सप्ताह एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण और आवश्यक सवाल पर भी विचार किया जाए।

उस सवाल से सदन के सभी सदस्य वाकिफ हैं क्योंकि सत्र के पहले और दूसरे दिन भी यह आया था। बिहार में विधान सभा के चुनावों में जो गडबड़ी है, बूथ कोपचरिंग है, वोटरों को जाने नहीं दिया गया अभी भी मधुबनी लोक सभा क्षेत्र के हरलाली क्षेत्र में कल चुनाव होने जा रहा है, यह उस से सम्बन्धित है। हिन्दूस्तान के लिए यह बहुत ही बड़ा सवाल है। इसकी गंभीरता हम इसी से जांक सकते हैं कि बिहार के तमाम विरोधी दलों के लोगों ने—कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी और दूसरे विरोधी दलों ने—यह फैसला किया है कि वे इस सवाल के विरोध में

असेम्बली के सत्र में तीन दिनों तक उपस्थित नहीं होंगे।

यह इतना महत्व का सवाल है कि हम लोगों ने भी, सदन के बहुत सारे सदस्यों ने और विरोधी दलों के नेताओं ने भी नियम 193, नियम 184 के मुताबिक नार्मदिसिज दिये हैं और संभवतः अध्यक्ष महांदेय ने कहा था कि हम इस पर विचार करेंगे। यह इतना बड़ा सवाल आज उभर कर सामने आया है। ऐसा लगता है कि क्या यह जनतंत्र है या गुण्डातंत्र है? (व्यवधान) इसलिए मैं कहता हूँ कि इस मसले पर विचार करने के लिए मंत्री जी अगले सप्ताह कार्ड दिन तय करें, घंटे तय करें। अगर अगले सप्ताह के शुरू में न हो सके तो जल्दी से जल्दी इस सवाल पर बहस हो ताकि जो लोगों में असंतोष और चिंता है उसका निराकरण हो सके।

श्री मालिक एम. एम. ए. खां (एटा) : इन्होंने गुण्डातंत्र का प्रयोग किया है।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : गुण्डातंत्र अनार्लियामेन्ट्री नहीं है। आप को या किसी और को नहीं कहा है। (व्यवधान)

सभापति भाषण : एक अल्ली फिरां व्यक्ति के लिए उन्होंने वह शब्द इस्तेमाल नहीं किया है। (व्यवधान)

श्री मालिक एम. एम. ए. खां : गुण्डातंत्र का जो इस्तेमाल इन्होंने किया है उसके बारे में मुझे प्लाइंट आफ आर्डर उठाना पड़ेगा।

सभापति भाषण : मैंने कहा तो दिया है कि उन्होंने किसी व्यक्ति के लिए इस शब्द का इस्तेमाल नहीं किया है। जनरल बात उन्होंने कही है। इस में कुछ भी अन्यांश-मेन्ट्री नहीं है।

श्री भगवत भा आजाद (भागलपुर) : जिस तंत्र के अन्दर सभापति भाषण, आप वहां आसीन हैं क्या यह गुण्डातंत्र है? जरा सचें मन में कितनी बुरी बात है। जिस तंत्र में आप बैठे हैं, हम सब बैठे हैं, उम्मको गुण्डातंत्र कहा जाए क्या यह शोभनीय लगता है?

सभापति भाषण : उन्होंने इस व्यवस्था के बारे में नहीं कहा है। एक जनरल उनका रिमार्क था।

श्री भगवत भा आजाद : इसी तंत्र में आप सभापति हैं, मैं सैम्बर हूँ, ये बैठे हैं, दण्डवते जी बैठे हैं, यह गुण्डातंत्र है, क्या इसको कार्ड कहेगा?

सभापति भाषण : जहां तक शब्दों के इस्तेमाल का प्रश्न है मैं समझता हूँ कि हर एक सदस्य को उनका इस्तेमाल करते समय ध्यान रखना चाहिए। राष्ट्र की जो व्यवस्था है उस व्यवस्था का यह सब से बड़ा मंच है और यहां शब्दों का प्रयोग करते समय सब को इस बात का ध्यान रखना चाहिए कि कार्ड ऐसा शब्द इस्तेमाल न किया जाए जिससे किसी भी तरीके से इसकी मर्यादा कम होती हो या कार्ड अन्यथा इसका प्रभाव पड़ता हो।

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Bombay North East) : Yesterday, the Minister of External Affairs said that he was prepared for any discussion in any form on Afghanistan. For quite some time, this House has been demanding a full-fledged discussion from the Government on Afghanistan. Many events have taken place. The situation is now very serious. It effects us vitally. So, the Government must give a commitment that they will agree to a full-fledged discussion on Afghanistan so that we can discuss it here.

Secondly, in the last session, there was a lot of noise made about the Vaidyalingam Commission's Report. In fact, a resolution was brought and, due to lack of time or whether it was planned that way, I do not know, the discussion could not take place. Those who moved it last time showed no interest at all. I asked Mr. Frank Anthony why he did not move the resolution again this time. He said, "I forgot about it." I do not want this House to forget the Vaidyalingam Commission's Report. We want a discussion on that. I want the Government, under rule 172 to allot time for the discussion on the Vaidyalingam Commission's Report so that we will know exactly what is the truth.

[Dr. Subramanian Swamy]

and what is actually being left out of the Report and what is being included in the Report. I hope, the Government will, next week, allow time for a discussion under rule 172 on that.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been repeatedly asking in the previous Sixth Lok Sabha as also in the present Seventh Lok Sabha for a discussion on the several reports of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities. The Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities is appointed in pursuance of article 350B of our Constitution. He submits reports which are placed on the Table of the House.

It is shocking that reports, as old as nearly a decade, have not been discussed in this House. Even the report for the year 1970-71 has not been discussed in this House, not to talk of the reports that have been placed on the Table of the House thereafter. The reports for the year 1970-71, 1971-72, 1972-73 and 1973-74 have all been placed on the Table of the House. They have not been discussed as yet.

Now, the reports of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities for the year 1974-75 and thereafter have not even been placed on the Table of the House. I do not know whether those reports have even been received by the Government and, if they have been received, I want to know why there is such a delay in placing them on the Table of the House. In the case of those Reports for the year 1974 and thereafter that have not been received, I do not know whether the Government has taken up the matter with the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities.

However, it is a very serious issue that even the Report for the year 1970-71 and several Reports thereafter have not been discussed in this House. I must once again strongly urge upon the Government that an opportunity

should be provided for a discussion of these important Reports submitted under Art. 350(b) of the Constitution, as early as possible. It is our misfortune that the problems about minorities are discussed only when they flare up; otherwise, even very important Reports collect dust in various offices.

The second point I wanted to urge upon the Government is this: the Commissioner for minorities has already submitted, long back, his first Annual Report—I understand that the Minorities Commissioner submitted his Report somewhere in 1979—but the Report has not even been placed on the Table of the House. I do not know with what speed this Government moves. At a snail's pace?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: No, no, at a tortoise's speed.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: I must urge upon the Government that this Report of the Minorities' Commissioner, which has been submitted to the Government, should be placed on the Table of the House as early as possible and a discussion should be allowed at the earliest opportunity.

With these words, I thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has the Minister anything to say?

SHRI BISHMA NARAIN SINGH: All the points raised by the Hon. Members will be brought to the notice of Business Advisory Committee.

14.40 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(i) CARDAMOM BOARD

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (3) (c) of Section 4 of the Cardamom Act, 1965, the members of this

House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Cardamom Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (3) (c) of Section 4 of the Cardamom Act, 1965, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Cardamom Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

(ii) Coffee Board.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: I beg to move:

'That in pursuance of sub-section (2) (b) of Section 4 of the Coffee Act, 1942, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as members of the Coffee Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) (b) of Section 4 of the Coffee Act, 1942, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as members of the Coffee Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

(iii) RUBBER BOARD

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (3) (e) of Section 4 of the Rubber Act, 1947, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Rubber Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (3)(e) of Section 4 of the Rubber Act, 1947, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as members of the Rubber Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

(iv) TEA BOARD

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (3)(f) of Section 4 of the Tea Act, 1953, read with rule 4(1)(b) of the Tea Rules, 1954, the members of this House to proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Tea Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules, made thereunder."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (3) (f) of Section 4 of the Tea Act, 1953, read with rule 4(1)(b) of the Tea Rules, 1954, the members of this House to proceed to elect in such manner as the Speaker may direct two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Tea Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules, made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

14. 45 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) REPORTED MASS KILLINGS IN TRIPURA AND FAILURE OF INTELLIGENCE TO CHECK THE UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Tripura, which has a difficult terrain and thick jungle in certain areas adjoining a neighbouring country and Mizoram, has been mass genocide

[Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu]

where the death toll has mounted to about 315 and one lakh people have been rendered homeless. The tales of violence and arson are harrowing and even children were not spared. This is a part of the foreign design to destabilise that area and create a rebellion against the country as a whole.

The Central I.B. and the Research and Analysis Wing, RAW, have primary and absolute duty to check any inflow of foreign undesirable elements and foreign arms. The leader of this mission went to the then East Pakistan. He has also visited Mizoram several times and established contact with underground forces. They were preparing themselves during the Emergency. In 1978 they came to the surface and organized in coordination with other tribal agents of foreigners in the North Eastern region. Whilst the State authorities seriously tried to give the tribals fullest opportunity to maintain their traditions, customs and methods and restoring their own lands which were taken over by the plains people this tribal Upajati Yuba Samiti, being financed and fomented by the CIA and some West European Intelligence agencies mainly operating from Calcutta, went on preparing themselves through the missionaries. The Hindu orthodoxy gave them a lever and the misled Christians took to inciting other Christian tribals also. And the Christian fears were utilised whilst the State authorities tried their best to do whatever was possible for the long exploited tribals. The Hindu tribals were also incited in a different manner.

This is a matter which requires thorough probing and fixing of responsibilities on the Intelligence officials who were responsible for the dereliction of their duties. And the Government should come forward with a factual statement on the floor of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has the Home Minister to say anything?

गृह मंत्री (श्री जैल सिंह): सभापांत जी, कल मैंने अपने स्टेटमेंट में और उसके बाद आनरबेल वाचपेयी जी के सवालों के जवाब में यह साफ किया था कि मैं नहीं चाहता कि स्टेट की सरकार को और कमजोर किया जाये। वह कमजोर सरकार है और इनडिसेजन में फंसी ही है। मेरा स्थान था कि श्री ज्योतिर्मय बस जैसा पालियामेन्टरियन और अपनी पार्टी में एक बहुत अच्छी ही सेयत रखने वाले हाउस में ऐसा स्टेटमेंट नहीं करेगा। अब उन्होंने कर दिया है, तो मूँझे कुछ बातें कहनी ही पड़ेगी।

सभापांत अध्येत्य: कोई ऐसी बात न कहिए, जिससे हालत बिगड़ जाये। आप चाहते हैं कि वह न बिगड़े।

श्री जैल सिंह: मैंने नेशन के इन्ट्रोस्ट में कछु बातें पब्लिक में जाने से रोके रखी हैं। उनको रोकने का मतबल हाउस से रोकने का नहीं था। अगर कोई मेम्बर चाहता, तो मैं वे बातें हाउस के सामने कहने के लिए तैयार था और तैयार हूँ। यह कहना बिल्कुल गलत है कि यह जो सारा वाक्य हआ है, इसका दोष आई। वी. रा और सेट्रल इनटर्लिंजेस पर है। आई. वी. और दूसरी एजेंसीज हर वक्त अपनी राय हम को और वहां की सरकार को बताती रही। आई. वी. का काम समझने की जरूरत है। सेट्रल गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से ये जो हमारे अफसर होते हैं ये वहां की स्टेट की सी आई. डी. के साथ कोआर्डिनेशन कर के काम करते हैं और एक दूसरे को खबर वह सप्लाई करते हैं। वहां की सी. आई. डी. को हमारी इटर्लिंजेस ने बताया लेकिन वहां की सरकार इतनी नाअहल साबित हुई जिस को आप यह कह रहे हैं कि उस सरकार ने डील किया है, मैं अब आप को बताना चाहता हूँ...

एक माननीय सदस्य : यह मत बताइए :

श्री जैल सिंह : नहीं, मैंको बताना पड़ेगा।

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: The State Government cannot be criticised on the floor of this House.

श्री जैस तिंहः इस हाउस में आप को स्टेटमेंट में उस का जिक्र नहीं करना चाहिए था ।

(व्यवधान) . . .

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD (Bhagalpur): Genocide....(Interruptions).

SHRI R. L. BHATIA (Amritsar): Mr. Bosu, have patience to Listen.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: It is the absolute responsibility of the central agencies to intercept the intrusion of foreigners.

श्री जैस तिंहः आप ने फरमाया --

"The leader of this mission went to the then East Pakistan. He has visited Mizoram several times and established contact with the underground forces. They were preparing this during Emergency. In 1978 they came to the surface and organised co-ordination with other tribal agents of foreigners in the north-eastern region."

यह स्टेटमेंट में उन्होंने दिया। जब वह बात

मानते हैं तो इन का जो सरगना था जिस का नाम था

श्री ज्योतिर्मय बसुः कन्खल ।

श्री जैस तिंहः कन्खल और उस के साथी थे कुछ. . . . (व्यवधान) . . .

जो बंगला देश से ट्रैनिंग लेकर आए थे और जिस को आप ने भी कहा है, उन के साथ त्रिपुरा के चीफ मिनिस्टर ने एक पॉलिटिकल डील की और उनके तमाम मुकदमे और उन के साथीयों के मुकदमे वापस ले लिए। मुकदमे वापस लेते वक्त सैट्रैल गवर्नरमेंट को नहीं बताया और न बताने का नतीजा यह हुआ, हश यह हुआ....(व्यवधान) . . .

सभापति भाषणः होम मिनिस्टर साहब, कृपा करके थोड़ा सुन लें।

एक साननीय सदस्यः बसु साहब को बैठा-इए पहले आप ।

सभापति भाषणः अब वह बैठ गए हैं, आप बैठें।

मेरा कहना यह है कि यह बात सही है कि कल जो गृह मंत्री ने यहां बयान दिया, इतनी कठिन परिस्थिति है हमारे देश के एक हिस्से में और उस में पूरा सदन और पूरा देश इस बात से चिन्तित है जो उन्होंने कल खुद अपने बयान में बताया था और चिन्ता व्यक्त की थी, पूरा हाउस उस बात से सहमत था और उन्होंने ठीक कहा था कि इस परिस्थिति का मुकाबिला करने के लिए केन्द्र और राज्यों की सरकारों को मिल कर काम करना है और वही दृष्टिकोण, वही अप्रोच सही अप्रोच है। इसलिए चूंकि ज्योतिर्मय बसु ने एक ब्यान दिया है उस की बजह से कोई ऐसी बात इस सदन में नहीं होनी चाहिए जिस से कल का जे वातावरण है यह किसी तरह से खराब हो।

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: He took advantage and made a political statement and the government must react to it.

सभापति भाषणः ठीक है, लेकिन सरकार की जिम्मेदारी ज्यादा है। इस बात को देखना चाहिए कि कोई ऐसा बयान नहीं हो एक गृह मंत्री की तरफ से जिस से आप जिस सम्बन्ध को बनाकर रखना चाहते हों वह न रहे। उस से प्रोत्साहन नहीं होना चाहिए। इस को ध्यान में रखते हुए (व्यवधान) .

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: That the Home Minister knows. That is his choice.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: On a point of order, Sir.

सभापति भाषणः मैं सड़ा हूँ।

इसलिए मैंने कहा, यह मैं आप की दृष्टि में ला रहा हूँ। मैं कोई आप पर रोक नहीं लगा रहा हूँ, आप की दृष्टि में ला रहा हूँ। इस को ध्यान में रखते हुए आप जो बयान देना चाहें या उत्तर देना चाहें दें।

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu has already complicated the issue by his statement and the

[Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad]

Home Minister must react to it. He must say what he has to say.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: On a point of order. Sir. There is a strict division of labour. There is co-ordination also. I had been the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. I have seen enough documents.

Foreign intrusion and smuggling in of foreign arms have come out on the front page of a national daily—nothing secret—and this is primarily and absolutely the responsibility of the Central Agency. This is what I wanted to draw attention to. I would caution the Government to be more careful.... (Interruptions).

सभापति भाषण : जो प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर उठाया गया है उसका जवाब देने दीजिए। मैं समझता हूँ यह बात सही नहीं है। इस देश में केन्द्रीय सरकार भी है और राज्य सरकार भी है। अगर किसी सबै में ऐसी घटना घटती है जहां बाहर से कोई तत्व आये या हीथियार आये तो राज्य सरकारों की भी जिम्मेदारी उतनी ही होती है। राज्य सरकार इस जिम्मेदारी से बच नहीं सकती है। इसलिए राज्य सरकार को उस जिम्मेदारी से अलग नहीं किया जा सकता।

श्री जैल सिंह: चेयरमैन साहब, आपकी ऐडवाइस बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है, मैं उसको ध्यान में रखूँगा और ध्यान में रखकर ही बात करूँगा। मैं यह भी जानता हूँ कि एक मेंबर कितना भी महत्वपूर्ण हो, उसके स्टेट-मेंट की वजह से गह मंत्री को किसी जोश में आकर ऐसी बात नहीं करनी चाहिए—इस जिम्मेदारी को मैं महसूस करता हूँ। लैंकिन में आकर ऐसी बात नहीं करनी चाहिए—इस इस हाउस के सामने। यह प्रजातन्त्र है और प्रजातन्त्र में कोई चीज रिकार्ड में आ जाती है, उसको अगर उसी बक्त दरस्त न किया जाए तो आने वाले समय में हम मजारिम बनकर खड़े होना बिल्कुल पसन्द नहीं करते। अगर मेरे डिपार्टमेंट में कोई कमी रही है तो मैं उसको मानने के लिए तैयार हूँ और जिस 'बफसर' ने कमी रखी होगी उसको सजा

वे दूँगा। लैंकिन जब मैं कहता हूँ कि सौ. आई. ए. के बजाए वहां के सौ. एम. का ज्यादा कुसूर है, जिसने उनको माफ किया, उनके मुकदमे वापिस लिए और उसके बाद दोबारा वे गए, द्राइबल एरियाज में जाकर मीटिंग एड्स की, वपने ट्रेन वर्कर्स को भेजा, कैप्स लगाए, उसके बाद भी मुझे दूँख है कि मैं तो उनकी रक्षा करता हूँ और वे अपनी पाटी को आघात पहुँचाना चाहते हैं, तो मैं क्या कर सकता हूँ? यह मेरे बस की बात नहीं है। या तो आप इल्जाम न लगाते आपने इतना बड़ा इल्जाम लगाया और हाउस की तरफ से सर्टिफिकेट देना चाहा कि वहां सरकार ने बड़ा अच्छा काम किया। मैंने कल उनके खिलाफ कछु नहीं कहा जिसके लिए आपको शुक्रगुजार होना चाहिए लैंकिन आप हाउस को डिस्कोडिट करते हैं और उनको सर्टिफिकेट देते हैं जिनकी वजह से सब कछु हुआ। इसलिए मुझे कहना पड़ेगा। (व्यवधान) चेयरमैन साहब, ये मेरे दोस्त हैं और मुझे अपने दोस्त पर रहम आता है। वहां पर इतनी निर्दिष्टा पूर्वक मानवता की हत्या को गहरा है जो आपको इतिहास में बर्गेर किसी युद्ध के था कुदरती आफत के देखने को नहीं मिलेगी। सच पूछिये तो मैं जब वहां से वापिस हुआ तो मुझे ख्याल आया, मैं तो सांचता था यह सब बन्द खदा के हैं मगर सांचता हूँ अगर यह बन्द खदा के हैं तो वह कोई अच्छा खदा नहीं है।

मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ, आज मुझे बड़े खुसी है कि वैस्ट बंगाल में भी, ज्योतिर्मय बसौ, साहब, आपकी पार्टी की ही सरकार है। आपने त्रिपुरा की सरकार को सर्टिफिकेट दे दिया लैंकिन कल-कत्ता को आपने बवालिफाई कर दिया। आप लिखते हैं :—

"West European intelligence agent mainly operated from Calcutta."

अगर कलकत्ता से विदेशी एजेंट आपरेट करते हैं, तो वैस्ट बंगाल की सरकार क्या करती है? . . . (व्यवधान). . . . चेयरमैन साहब, अगर यहीं पर बस कर देते, समाप्त कर देते, तो कोई बात नहीं

थी। उन्होंने समाप्त नहीं किया और बाके जाकर कहा:

"This is a matter which required thorough probing and fixing of responsibility on the intelligence officials."

प्रोब भी करो, इन्वायरी भी करो, लैंकिन रिसर्व्सीविलिटी किस पर फैक्टों—इन्टलीजेंस पर। अगर फिर प्रोब होगी तो फिर आपके उपर भी होगी, सी.एम. के उपर भी होगी, सरकार के उपर भी होगी और मेरे उपर भी होगी।

मैं बड़े अदब के साथ चेयरमैन साहब आपके द्वारा उनसे दरखास्त करता हूँ कि बातें और भी हैं, लैंकिन मैंने अपनी जिम्मेदारी का अहसास करते हुए नहीं कहनी है। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि अगर वे मुनासिब समझें तो इस बात को प्रसेटज का सवाल न बनायें, इसको खारिज कर दें, यह स्टेटमेंट अपना वापिस ले लें तो बड़ा अच्छा है, नहीं तो इसका नतीजा अच्छा नहीं हो सकता।

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD; (Bhagalpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise on a point of order and my point of order is like Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu's point of order. I want to know in a State where thousands have been killed and as Mr. Vajpayee put it 'genocide' I fully agree with him on this, in a State where lakhs have been made homeless, in a State where villages have been razed to the ground, in a State where the Chief Minister has conspired with a foreign agent, as has been told by the Home Minister, and in a State where the Chief Minister went to the villages, organised camps, addressed meetings, incited the people to have genocide what others can be the grounds under the Constitution to dismiss such a government!

(Interruptions).

सभापति भाष्य: ठीक है, आप बैठिए।

श्री मलिक एम. एम. ए. बां (एटा) : सभापति भाष्य, हम इसके बारे में कलीयर बिडिंग्स चाहते हैं। . . . (अवधार) . . .

सभापति भाष्य: आप हाउस महीं चलने देना चाहते हैं . . . (अवधार) . . . आपने हाउम मिनिस्टर के नॉटिस में ला दिया है। यह क्वेस्चन-बावर नहीं है। हाउम मिनिस्टर को जवाब देने के लिए मजबूर नहीं किया जा सकता।

(अवधार)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is no point of order.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Mr Chairman, Sir, surprisingly the other State Chief Minister—the Chief Minister of West Bengal—gives a base for the foreign agents to operate.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): The Home Minister in his reply has tried to explain that the Tripura Chief Minister tried to deal politically with these elements. If a Chief Minister tries to deal with them politically at the first stage so that they can be convinced about their wrong line then what is the harm?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: By inciting them to shoot. He went to the villages and incited them.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: No, No. Mr. Chairman, the issue must be clearly understood. What he is saying—whether that is a fact or not—I do not know, if taken for granted, even then every effort must be made to bring them away from the wrong path which they were pursuing. That is the elementary thing every political party must try to do whenever they find that some of these boys go into some wrong path. What is the fault in that?

15.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mukherjee, you have made your point.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: To say that the Chief Minister conspired in the genocide and so on is absolutely a slander and motivated allegation having a political purpose in view. That is not what the Minister has been saying. That is not what he has mentioned. I am saying this, because, we

[Shri Samar Mukherjee]

must understand the issue quite correctly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mukherjee, please resume your seat. You have made your point.

श्री भालिक एम. एम. ए. लां : सभापति महोदय,

सभापति महोदय: आप क्या चाहते हैं--इस पर कोई स्पीच नहीं हो रही है।

श्री भालिक एम. एम. ए. लां : मेरा प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर है, आप मेरी बात सुन लीजिये। कलकत्ते से चीफ मिनिस्टर ने यह किलबर स्टेटमेंट दिया है कि इस मामले में कांग्रेस (आई) का हाथ है। यह एक बड़ा भारी लेम हमारे उपर लगाया गया है। हम चाहते हैं कि हमें मिनिस्टर साहब इस के बारे में क्लरिफिकेशन दे कि यह इलजाम सही है या गलत।

सभापति महोदय: नियम 377 के तहत हम व्यवस्थन-आन्सर अलाउ नहीं करेंगे। अब चूंकि किसी चीज को आप ने उठाया है और उस पर हमें मिनिस्टर साहब का छ कहना चाहते हैं, तो मैं इस की इजाजत देदूगा, लेकिन आगे किसी को एलाउ नहीं करूगा, इस पर व्यवस्थन-आन्सर नहीं होगा।

श्री डॉल सिंह: चेअरमैन साहब, मैंने गर्दन घुसा कर देखा, तो अपने ही दोस्तों से मुलाकात हुई। अब मैं आनरेंबिल मेम्बर साहबान से आप की मार्फत यह दरखास्त करना चाहता हूँ—वह हमारी शराफत को हमारी कमज़ोरी न समझे और उस का नाजायज फायदा उठाने की कोशिश न करें। समर मुख्यमंत्री साहब ने जो कुछ कहा है, मैं उन के जबात के साथ सहमत हूँ और मैं समझता हूँ कि उन का कहना एक वाचिव कहना है, लेकिन आप को यह भी ध्यान में रखना होगा कि स्टेटमेंट में कुछ और भी है। वह कहते हैं

—Whilst the State authorities seriously tried to give the tribals fullest opportunity to maintain their traditions, customs and methods and restoring

their own land which were taken over by the plains people.....

क्या यह उक्साहट नहीं है—उनके लिये? क्या यह फुल अपार्चीनिटी देने की बात है, इस तरह का सटीफिकेट आप देते हैं। फिर मुझे कहते हैं कि मैं चीफ मिनिस्टर को कुछ न कहूँ।

मैंने कल कुछ नहीं कहा था, तारीफ की थी। मेरी पाटी के लोग कह रहे थे कि तारीफ क्यों कर रहे हैं। लेकिन उस का फायदा इस तरह से न उठाये। मैं बड़े अदब से दरखास्त करता हूँ—ये जो मसले हैं, नेशनल मसले हैं, कौमी मसले हैं, उन को पाटी के मुकाद के उपर रखिये, पाटी के मुकाद के नीचे न रखिये। जो पाटी हिन्दुस्तान में डेमोक्रेसी को जिन्दा रखना चाहती है, वह पाटी को एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन के उपर नहीं बैठायांगी। जो पाटी स्टेट के उपर बैठती है, वह डेमोक्रेसी को जिन्दा नहीं रख सकती है।

इस लिये ज्योतिर्मय बसु साहब से मेरी दरखास्त है—हिन्दुस्तान में अगर काम्यनियम को लाना चाहते हैं तो आप को और ढग अपनाना होगा, पाटी को स्टेट के उपर नहीं बैठाना होगा।

श्री भालिक एम. ए. लां : मेरे का जवाब दीजिये, कांग्रेस (आई) के बारे में आप ने कुछ नहीं कहा।

श्री डॉल सिंह: कांग्रेस (आई) का इस में कोई हाथ है—ऐसा हम को नजर नहीं आया।

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, I did not expect this reply from the Home Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is all right. It is for him to reply. You cannot force him.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I have called Mrs. Dandavate.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I am not allowing anybody.

Mrs. Dandavate.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: On a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No; Mrs. Dandavate.

(ii) REPORTED RAPE OF A SWEEPER'S DAUGHTER AT CHANDIGARH

SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE (Bombay-North—Central): The Indian Express (Delhi Edition) dated 11th June, 1980 carried a gruesome report that on the 2nd of June, 1980 a thirteen-year old sweeper's daughter, Miss Bholi, while sweeping the residential areas of sector 11 at Chandigarh was kidnapped by three persons and was repeatedly raped in a nearby jungle and other places. The culprits have still not been located though the raped girl has stated that she would be able to identify the rapists. Since such ugly cases of rapes are taking place for quite often, I request the hon. Home Minister to make a statement on this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want to say anything, Mr. Home Minister?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ZAIL SINGH): Not today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request you to take note of it.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): It is a usual thing for the Minister concerned to take note of a statement under Rule 377.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Chandigarh is a centrally-administered area and it is a case of rape on a thirteen-year old girl. I think, the Home Minister should find out the facts and let the House know about it.

(iii) REPORTED REFUSAL BY FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA TO WEIGH THE BAGS OF SUGAR, RICE AND WHEAT, ETC. SUPPLIED TO DEALERS

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Food Corporation of India while distributing the essential commodities to the dealers is not allowing the commodities to be weighed with the plea that there is no such rule to weigh the commodities, the result of which was that the essential commodities like sugar, wheat, rice etc. supplied by the Food Corporation of India were found 5 to 20 kgs. short in each bag which is nothing but causing loss to the poor consumers since the commodities are distributed according to the quantity found or the rate is increased while selling to the consumers. Discussed in the State and district level Advisory Committee in the State of Orissa since long, the Food Corporation of India are sleeping over the matter and no remedy has been found. On the other hand, the dealers are asked to pay Rs. 2/- to Rs. 5/- per bag, otherwise they would be refused the supply of commodities. This is causing heavy loss and untold harassment to the dealers, which is indirectly passed on to the poor consumers.

(iv) LAYING OF REPORT OF INQUIRY INTO ALLEGED POLICE LATHI CHARGE ON THE PROCESSION OF THE BLIND IN DELHI, ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (New Delhi): In the last session of Lok Sabha, the Government had announced in Parliament its decision to institute an enquiry into the alleged police lathi charge on the procession of the blind organised on the occasion of the International Day of the handicapped in Delhi.

According to the press reports, the enquiry has been completed and its report has been submitted to the Government.

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

As the decision to institute an enquiry was announced in Parliament, it is but proper that the Government should place a copy of the report on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

(v) DEPLETING STOCKS OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES IN UNION TERRITORY OF LAKSHADWEEP

SHRI P. M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep): Sir, under rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter:

I would like to bring to the attention of the Government a serious matter of urgent public importance which is taking place in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

I am in receipt of a number of telegrams from the various islands regarding the exhaustion of stock of essential commodities like rice, sugar, diesel and other commodities, resulting in the people having to face the verge of starvation in many islands. I am aware that some time back, the Union Territory Administration had chartered a cargo ship to transport the said commodities so as to reach them in time before the onset of monsoons. I would like to emphasize here that unlike in mainland, there is no open market, where people can buy these essentials. Therefore, there is a grave situation that is on account of the exhaustion of stock of the essential goods. It would be in the fitness of things if a proper evaluation of the chartered ship in terms of number of its voyages the number of islands touched, the total cargo unloaded and the total freight paid on this contract, is taken into proper account. Despite this chartering of the ship for the said purpose, I am at a loss to understand as to why this extraordinary situation has arisen in this Union Territory.

I therefore, appeal to the Government through you, Sir, firstly to immediately rush the essential goods to this far-flung Union Territory without any further loss of time, before the sea becomes tempestuous. Secondly, I would request the Government to go into the details of the cargo ship

chartered, and find out any serious lapse, if any, in the whole matter.

(iv) REPORTED FIRE IN HARDUAGANJ
POWER HOUSE RESULTING IN DEATH
AT TWO PERSONS.

श्री अनन्दपाल शैलानी (हाथरस) : सभापति जी, मैं नियम 377 के अन्तर्गत निम्न-लिखित वक्तव्य देना चाहता हूँ :—

दिनांक 26 अप्रैल, 1980 दिन शनि-
वार को प्रातः साढे पांच बजे बलीगढ़ जिले
के हरदुआगंज पावर हाउस में भव्यकर अग्नि-
कांड हुआ जिसमें जर्मन सहयोग से बना 90
मेघावाट की क्षमता वाला प्लांट लगभग पूरी
तरह जल कर नष्ट हो गया। मशीनों को
बचाने के लिए इस विद्युत गृह के दो कर्म-
चारियों ने आग में जल कर अपने प्राणों की
आहुति दे दी। बताया जाता है कि यह
अग्निकांड जर्मन सहयोग से बने “ए” यूनिट की
मशीन के ट्रांसफार्मर में अचानक विस्फोट
हो जाने से हुआ। यह कार्ड पहली दुर्घटना
नहीं है, करीब दो वर्ष पहले भी इसी
विद्युतगृह के “बी” स्पेन में करोड़ों रुपये
की कीमत की एक टबाइर्न विस्फोट में नष्ट
हो गई थी। इस अग्निकांड में आग कछु
ही मिनटों में पूरे यूनिट में फैले गई और
देखते देखते ही पैनल्स, कट्रोल रूम,
कोंबिल्स, ट्रांसफार्मर्स और गैस सिलन्डर्स आदि
सभी उपकरण पूरी तरह नष्ट हो गये। इस
यूनिट के नष्ट हो जाने से विद्युत गृह की क्ष-
मता का लगभग चालीस प्रतिशत हिस्सा
नष्ट हो गया।

प्रत्यक्षदर्शियों के अनुसार अग्निकांड प्रारम्भ होने के करीब एक घटे बाद ब्रह्मन्दशहर जनपद से अग्निशमक गाडियों ने आकर आग बुझाने का कार्य शुरू किया किन्तु इसी विद्युत गहरे में चार अग्निशमक गाडियों को गैरेज से बाहर तक भी नहीं निकाला गया था । बताया जाता है कि इस अग्निकांड में शहीद हुए दोनों कर्मचारियों सर्वश्री माहेर सिंह व तोताराम ने रात्रि दो बजे अपनी ड्यूटी पर पहुँचने के बाद अधीक्षक अभियन्ता तथा सहायक अधिकारी अभियन्ता को मशीन नम्बर दो ट्रांसफार्मर में निरन्तर चिन्नारी निकलने की सूचना दी थी किन्तु उक्त दोनों अधिकारियों ने इस संबंध में कोई कार्य-वाही नहीं की और चैन की नींद सोते रहे । इस अग्निकांड में पचास करोड़ रुपये का नक्सान हुआ है जिसकी क्षतिपूर्ति निकट

भविष्य में नहीं हो सकती। ये विद्युतगृह राष्ट्रीय महत्व एवं भवभूति के प्रतीक हैं। बिजली के उत्पादन पर ही राष्ट्र की कृषि एवं उद्योग की उन्नति निर्भर करती है। अतः जहां कहीं भी इस तरह के कांड हों सरकार के तुरन्त उसकी जांच करानी चाहिये। अतः मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस दुर्घटना को हुए इतना समय बीत जाने पर इस कांड की जांच करा ली है या नहीं तथा दोषी अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की गई और कौन-कौन अधिकारी दोषी पाये गये हैं इससे उर्जा मंत्री सदन को अवगत करायें।

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are now going to take up the next item, viz. the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Bill. I think 3 hours have been allotted for this Bill. If the House agrees, two hours may be utilized for general discussion and one hour for clause-by-clause consideration.

—
15.15 hrs.

BANKING COMPANIES (ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKINGS) BILL

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): I beg to move: *

"That the Bill to provide for the acquisition and transfer of the undertakings of certain banking companies, having regard to their size, resources, coverage and organisation, in order further to control the heights of the economy, to meet progressively, and serve better, the needs of the development of the economy and to promote the welfare of the people, in conformity with the policy of the State towards securing the principles laid down in clauses (b) and (c) of article 39 of the Constitution and for

matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

As Hon'ble Members are aware, 14 major commercial banks incorporated in India each with deposits exceeding Rs. 50 crores were nationalised by Government with effect from 19th July, 1969 in order to gain control over the commanding heights of the economy for the attainment of national and economic objectives. It was then visualised that public ownership of these banks would help in more effective mobilisation of savings and their channelisation for productive purposes.

Since nationlisation, bank services have grown rapidly particularly in the hitherto underbanked rural and semi-urban areas. The number of branches of public sector banks has risen from 6, 596 in June, 1969 to 25,028 (including those of Regional Rural Banks) as at the end of December, 1979. Out of these, as many as 18,051 branches of the public sector banks are located in rural and semi-urban areas. The deposits of the public sector banks rose from Rs. 3,871 crores to Rs. 25,977 crores during this period. Progressive increase was also registered in the deployment of Banking resources for the neglected sectors and weaker sections of society. Advances of the public sector banks to the priority sectors as a percentage of their total credit has risen from 14.9 per cent in June, 1969 to 33.5 per cent in September, 1979.

Government are committed to implement the 20-point programme vigorously. In pursuance of this objective, the public sector banks have undertaken to increase their credit to priority sectors to 40 per cent of their total advances over a period of five years. It was felt that Indian banking companies in the non-nationalised sector which have registered a rapid growth during the recent past should

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri R. Venkataraman]

also be subject to a more effective and meaningful direction and control so as to make them an integral part of the development effort.

As Parliament was not in session and immediate action was necessary, the President promulgated an Ordinance on 15th April, 1980 to provide for the nationalisation of six Indian private sector banks having demand and time liabilities exceeding Rs. 200 crores each as on March 14, 1980. These banks were:—

1. The Andhra Bank Ltd.,
2. Corporation Bank Ltd.,
3. The New Bank of India Ltd.,
4. The Oriental Bank of Commerce Ltd.,
5. The Punjab and Sind Bank Ltd., and
6. Vijaya Bank Ltd.

The total demand and time liabilities of these banks aggregated over Rs. 2,356 crores as on March 14, 1980. The present Bill seeks to replace this Ordinance by an Act of Parliament.

The Bill provides for the payment of amount totalling Rs. 18.50 crores to the six existing banks on the basis adopted in the past when the 14 major commercial banks were nationalised in 1969. This amount will be payable at the option of the existing banks in cash in three annual instalments with an interest at the rate of 5.5 per cent per annum, or by issue of Government securities of 10 years carrying interest rate of 6 per cent or of 30 years with interest rate of 7 per cent or a combination of the two. With the incorporation of the six largest private sector banks in the public sector, the total deposits of the public sector banks would be about 91 per cent of the deposits of all scheduled commercial banks.

While commending the Bill for consideration, I may mention that it follows closely the provisions of the

existing Nationalisation Act passed by this House in 1970. As in the earlier Act, the present Bill provides for the management of the new banks each by a board of directors to be constituted by government after consultation with the Reserve Bank in accordance with the provisions of a nationalisation scheme to be framed by government under the provisions of the proposed enactment. The broad-based boards of these banks providing for the representation to be given to various interests such as employees, depositors, farmers, artisans and other experts will accordingly be constituted by government after the nationalisation scheme is framed. Employees of the acquired banks would automatically become employees of the corresponding new banks. It is our fervent hope that with the inclusion of these six banks in the public sector, the implementation of the 20 point programme will become more fruitful and effective.

Sir, I would not like to take more time of this House on the other provisions of the Bill. I move.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

“That the Bill to provide for the acquisition and transfer of the undertakings of certain banking companies, having regard to their size, resources, coverage and organisation, in order further to control the heights of the economy, to meet progressively, and serve better, the needs of the development of the economy and the promote the welfare of the people, in conformity with the policy of the State towards securing the principles laid down in clauses (b) and (c) of article 39 of the Constitution and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.”

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: (Jaipur): May I seek one or two clarifications? The Ordinance was issued on 15th April 1980. These banks which had deposits of more than Rs. 200

crores on 14th March 1980 were nationalised but the ordinance was issued on 15th April, 1980; one month afterwards. Why did you take 14th March as the date for computation? What is the rationale behind it? You could have taken 14th April. The ordinance was issued on 15th April. Why did you ante-date it to 14th March, 1980? What is the motive behind it? I fail to understand it. He has not mentioned anything with regard to that in the statement which has been laid on the Table of the House.

Secondly, what is the rationale behind fixing the limit of Rs. 200 crores? 91 per cent of the entire deposits in the banking system come under the nationalised sector. Why did you not keep it at the previous level of Rs. 50 crores? You could have kept Rs. 100 crores? Hardly 4-5 per cent would have been left and you could have had commanding heights of the economy through the nationalised sector and implement the 20 point programme so successfully through this instrument. I fail to understand why you did not keep 100 crores and why you kept 200 crores. Previously it was 50 crores.

AN HON. MEMBER: Why even Rs. 50 crores?

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: What is the rationale in changing that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the Finance Minister wants to say something, he may.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: If he gives proper clarifications, he will have support from us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Minister chooses not to reply now, I cannot compel him to say anything. Prof Rup Chand Pal.

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL (Hooghly): The Banking Companies (Ac-

quisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Bill has come up for consideration and discussion. Many pious things have been said that in the interest of the 20-point programme, in the interest of the poor people, in the interest of the weaker sections of society, nationalisation was urgently needed. If we look back 11 years ago when 14 banks were nationalised on the floor of this House the same pious things had been declared. Some pious hopes were raised among the poorer sections of the people that it shall be the endeavour of the Government to ensure that the needs of the productive centres of economy and in particular those of farmers, small scale industries and self-employed professional groups are met in an increasing measure. But what is our experience?

About our experience for the last 11 years, I would like to refer to the statement made by one Finance Minister Shri H. N. Bahuguna, some time ago. This was published in Deccan Herald of 29.4.1980. Deccan Herald, as we all know, is reputed Weekly. Shri Bahuguna belongs to a party which is being accused daily only to be counter-accused. Shri Bahuguna said, "Banks write the bad debts of powerful people and institutions and do not even show them in the Annual Accounts submitted in their Reports. This I have learnt when I was the Finance Minister. As much as 99.9 per cent of all bad debts are all those which take amounts in excess of Rs. 50,000. All of them are rich."

The rich people have benefited much during 11 years of nationalisation. So many pious things have been said and are still being said, but what do you see? We see that double financing practice is going on regularly in West Bengal. The jute merchants are taking loans from the banks to purchase raw jute. That is being stocked with the help of bank. Showing that very stock, they again take loan against that stock.

[Prof. Rup Chand Pal]

What happens to the landless labourers? They are not treated even as human beings. That is our experience. What happens to the small trader? What happens to the small scale industrialist? They are always deprived of this benefit. There is corruption. It is not only my experience but also the experience of so many people belonging to the ruling party. That is on record. When you go in for some bank loan, the Bank officers will ask—have you any surety? The poor man goes there for loan but he is asked—"Are you having anything to support the mortgage"? That is the snag of surety.

The poor people are being deprived. The parasite class in the rural areas are getting a lot of help from the banks. Sometimes it is published in the newspapers—tangawals, rickshawalas and rehriwalas are being provided loan from the banks. That is not even a drop in the ocean. A big chunk is being taken away by the merchants. They are the parasite class. They are the land-owning class, the people who own industries and land.

You have said so many pious things. If we look to the rural areas, what do we find? The moneylenders operate in the rural areas and suck the blood of the poor people. They are still operating and the banks have not yet been able to provide the minimum loan required by the poor people. They are getting pauperised. They have not and cannot be brought out of the clutches of the moneylenders.

As far back as 1928. The Royal Commission, while reporting on the condition of agriculture said, "The Indian peasant was born in debt, lived in debt and died in debt." Still, that is the position. What is happening to the poor people? They are in debt. They are selling their land to the moneylenders. The moneylenders have accumulated the land. What has

happened in the last 33 years? 40 per cent of the land is concentrated in the hands of 4 per cent of the people. In the process of pauperisation the people are losing their land. That process is still continuing inspite of the number of branches that are stated to have been opened by the Finance Minister, or the progress that is claimed to have been achieved during the last 33 years. I have not got enough time. Otherwise, I could make many points. These six banks have now been taken over. What about the foreign banks? They are making huge assets throughout the country. It is being said that if we nationalise these foreign banks, we shall not be allowed to operate in their countries. But what is the picture? There are only about 123 branches of the State Bank of India and one or two other banks operating in the foreign countries. But what is the picture of the foreign banks operating in our country? They are making huge assets. They are manipulating invoices. They are overcharging in the name of selling foreign exchange without permission of the Reserve Bank. I can cite the example of Grindlays Bank operating in India. A few days ago the employees of the Grindlays Bank have gone on strike for 90 days. They were demanding that this bank should be nationalised. That bank is operating in an anti-national manner, against the Indian interests. The strike continued for 90 days, not for increased DA or salary. The bank authorities are trying to bring machines. In a country where there is so much unemployment they are trying to instal machines and subvert the Indian economy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would you like to continue for some more time?

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may continue on Monday. Now we will take Private Members' business.

13.30 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

FIRST REPORT

SHRI P. PARTHASARATHY (Rajampet): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the First Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 11th June, 1980."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the First Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 11th June, 1980."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up introduction of Bills.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION (REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS) BILL*

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI (Bombay North-West): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for unrestricted freedom of religion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for unrestricted freedom of religion."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: I introduce the Bill.

15.33 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

BOUNDARY COMMISSION BILL*

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a permanent Boundary Commission and resolve inter-State boundary disputes between States and States and between Union territories and States.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a permanent Boundary Commission and resolve inter-State boundary disputes between States and States and between Union territories and States."

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: I introduce the Bill.

BORDER AREAS (UTTAR PRADESH HILL DISTRICTS) PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BILL*

SHRI HARISH CHANDRA SINGH RAWAT (Almora): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the comprehensive, intensive and speedy planning and development of the border areas comprising the eight hill districts of Uttar Pradesh and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the com-

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 13-6-1980.

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

prehensive, intensive and speedy planning and development of the border areas comprising the eight hill districts of Uttar Pradesh and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto."

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI HARISH CHANDRA SINGH RAWAT: I introduce the Bill.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of Preamble and article 1, 3 etc.)

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I introduce† the Bill.

DOWRY PROHIBITION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVA-TE (Bombay North Central): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961."

The Motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVA-TE: I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri R. L. P. Verma—absent.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Insertion of new article 16A, etc.)

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur): I beg to move:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India".

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I introduce the Bill.

SMALL FARMERS ASSISTANCE BILL*

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur): I beg to move:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the grant of loans and various subsidies to small farmers."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the grant of loans and various subsidies to small farmers."

The Motion was adopted.

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 13th June 1980.

†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I introduce the Bill.

CASTE SYSTEM ABOLITION BILL*

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur): I beg to move:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for abolition of caste system and to put a ban on expression of caste after the name."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for abolition of caste system and to put a ban on expression of caste after the name."

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I introduce a Bill.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of articles 101 and 190)

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur): I beg to move:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN FISHERIES (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of sections 3, 4, etc.)

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): I beg to move:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Fisheries Act, 1897."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Fisheries Act, 1897."

The Motion was adopted.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Bapusaheb Parulekar—absent.

INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of section 53, etc.)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): I beg to move:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code."

The Motion was adopted

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. R. P. Yadav—absent.

15.38 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL—Contd.

(Amendment of Eighth Schedule)

by Shri Chitta Basu:

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we take up further consideration of the

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 13th June 1980.

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

following motion moved by Shri Chitta Basu on 28th March, 1980, namely:—

“That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration.”

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): The particular purpose of my Bill is to give recognition to the Nepali language as an Indian national language. This can be done only by including the Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

At present, the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India comprises of 15 languages but Nepali language is not one of those languages. It is to be noted that the language which appears in the Eighth Schedule is generally taken to be the national language of our country. Only because of the fact that the Nepali language is not in the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution, it is not recognised as a national language although it possesses all the qualities of becoming a national language. The Nepali language is enriched and is spoken by quite a considerable segment of Indian people. This is a language which is now spoken by about 60 lakh of Indian people spread over different States of the country, particularly in the Himalayan and northern regions.

So far as the literary richness of language is concerned, Nepali is also a very rich and magnificent language. The House, I think, should remember in great reverence to the memory of Odhiwari Bhanu Bhakta, who was the pioneer of modern Nepali language that he and others have contributed to a great extent for the enrichment of Nepali language in diverse ways. Nepali literature is rich, equally rich its drama, songs, folklore, and it contributes very magnificently to the composite culture which we call the Indian culture, the culture of unity in diversity. It is a very sad thing to

remember that although Nepali language is an Indian language, doubts have been raised by many—I will not say ‘many’, but by certain quarters, as to whether Nepali is an Indian language or a foreign language. This is the crux of the problem. Now, in order to dispel that doubt that Nepali is not an Indian language, I feel that the House should also understand and know the origin of Nepali language.

Since the time at my disposal is short, naturally it is not possible during this brief discussion to analyse the history or the genesis or the origin and development of the language in the course of a debate of this nature. So, I would simply mention some of the opinions expressed by many literatures in regard to the origin of the Nepali language. The history of the Nepali language shows that the origin of Nepali language was Indo-Aryan. As a matter of fact, the Nepali language has come from the family of the Satem branch of Indo-European language.

According to Dr. Parasmani Pradhan, the renowned literary scholar, modern Nepali has descended from ‘Khag Prakrit’, which came to be known as Gorkhali. The name ‘Nepali’ has been given by the Nepalese citizens of India during the British regime and I possess certain documents to show that during the British regime also the accepted the language which they called ‘Nepali language’.

I have got a photostat copy of the Circular No. 11499A of the Government of Bengal, Appointments Department, Notification, Calcutta, the 30th July 1926 which reads as follows:

“The following amendments are made in rules 1, 2, 3 and 5 in Appendix VI of the Department Examination Rules:

Substitute Nepali for ‘Nepali-Paharia’ and ‘Nepalese-Paharia’ or

'Khas-Kura' wherever they occur in these rules.

By Order etc.

Sd/- A. N. Moberly

Off. Chief Secretary to Govt."

Therefore, Sir, it was by an amendment of a rule by the British Government at that time that Nepali language was admitted to be an Indian language and it has found a place in the circulars, in the rules and the administrative work conducted by the Government of India.

There is another Notification of this nature which is Notification No. 422 dated 8th January, 1927 which reads as follows:

"As required by Section 3(i)(I) of the Indian Naturalisation Act, 1926, the Governor in Council is pleased to declare the following to be the vernaculars of the province:

(1) Bengali, (2) Urdu, (3) Hindi and (4) Nepali (*vide* page 86, Part I, Calcutta Gazette dated 13th January, 1927).

Sd/- W. D. R. Patriotica."

I quote this from *Amrita Bazar Patrika* dated 21st June, 1979.

Therefore, there is ample proof to show that Nepali was accepted to be an Indian language for administrative purposes even during the British regime.

I would only refer to certain treatises and books for further information and study by those who are interested, because it is not possible for me to refer to each and every thing and quote from them. I would refer to *Indian Paleographical Accounts* by Cassino Belegatti, *A Treatise of Nepali Language* by Sri Golul Sinha, and *William Carey Commission* of 1816 which referred to Nepali as one of the 33 Indian languages. Late in the year 1820, Prof. Ayton wrote a grammar of Nepali language. Then, the colossal linguist, Dr. Suniti Chatterjee, in

his book, *Origin and Development of Bengali Language*, has expounded that Nepali is an Indian language, and he recommended that it should be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution in order to give it national recognition.

I would also refer to another book of Dr. Suniti Chatterjee, *Languages & Linguistic Problem of India*, wherein also he has mentioned that Nepali is an Indian language and should be given recognition by including it in the Eighth Schedule.

All these things go to prove that Nepali is an Indian language, and it is necessary to give recognition to it by including it in the Eighth Schedule.

I would also like to mention that Nepali languages and its status have been accepted or recognised by many authorities and even by the State legislatures of this country. The Sahitya Akademi has already recognised Nepali as one of the Indian literary languages. Nepali is spoken by about 77 per cent of the people of Sikkim. It is the first official language of Sikkim, and it is now the *lingua franca* of Sikkim. Besides, the Legislative Assembly of Sikkim adopted unanimously an official resolution on 11th October, 1977, urging upon the Government of India to include Nepali in the Eighth Schedule.

In West Bengal in three hill districts Nepali has been recognised as the official language. Therefore, official recognition to Nepali has been given by the West Bengal Government and administration work in those three districts is being done in that language. Not only that. The West Bengal Government felt that recognition of Nepali within the borders of the State was not enough, and therefore the West Bengal Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution on 2nd July, 1977, urging upon the Government of India to include Nepali in the Eighth Schedule. The Assembly of Tripura also adopted a resolution on 28th June, 1978. Therefore, Nepali is now recognised as the

[*Shri Chitta Basu*]

official language in two States, Sikkim and West Bengal. Not only that. The Legislative Assemblies of Sikkim, West Bengal and Tripura have accepted unanimous resolutions urging the Government of India to include Nepali in the Eighth Schedule. I think the House will remember that Sindhi language was included in the Eighth Schedule and it was a matter of happiness that another language, Sindhi language, which was not earlier recognised as a national language, had been recognised as a national language by inclusion in the Eighth Schedule. The Nepalese feel happy, we feel happy and every group of people speaking different languages felt happy that Sindhi has become a member of the family of Indian languages. With all respect to Sindhi language, I would like to say that Nepali is being spoken by a larger number of people in India than Sindhi. The point is that the Eighth Schedule is not sacrosanct, it is not an inexhaustible list. I remember that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in 1959, when he referred to this, said that the Eighth Schedule is not an inexhaustible list. As a matter of fact, if you ask me, I would say, on behalf of my party that there should not be the Eighth Schedule at all. All the Indian languages should be taken to be national languages. There should not be any bar to any Indian language. It may be 25, 35 or 40. Every language has got the right to be recognised as a national language, to enrich itself, and to enrich the composite culture of India. This is the concept of 'Unity in Diversity'. All the Indian languages, which have got their origin in India, should be recognised as national languages and they should be provided with all opportunities to enrich the composite culture of India. This is called 'Unity in Diversity'. I think you would agree with this.

While these are the illustrations, instances and facts, I am sorry to say that the attitude of the Government of India, the successive Governments at the Centre, I would not mention

any particular Government, has all along remained unhelpful and if you will permit me to say so, inimical and hostile to Nepali language to some extent. Now let us analyse the attitude of the leaders of the Government from time to time. History has it that as far back as in 1956, Shri B. G. Kher, the then Chairman of the Official Languages Commission, most unfortunately, observed: "Nepali language cannot be recognised as an Indian language because there is a country called 'Nepal', which is free and independent." I shall dwell on it later on. By that, he meant to say....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Tamil is accepted in Ceylon.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: In Singapore also.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: The then Chairman of the Official Languages Commission said that simply because there is a country called 'Nepal', where the people speak Nepali, which is free and sovereign, it cannot be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution and that the Indian Nepalese should not have the right to get their language recognised as a national language.

As for example, you just now mentioned that Tamil is recognised in Sri Lanka. That does not stand in the way. Bangladesh has emerged as an independent a sovereign and a free nation. Bengali is the official language and the *lingua franca* of the Government of Bangladesh. Bengali is a language which is included in the Eighth Schedule. If you accept the argument of Mr. B. G. Kher, does the Government of India want to delete Bengali from the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution simply because Bengali is also spoken in Bangladesh which is an independent, a foreign, a sovereign and a free country. Therefore, this should not be the argument.

Now, when a question was raised on the floor of the House by Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu on August 2, 1968, as to what are the reasons for not recognising Nepali language as the national language and not including it in the

Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, the answer given was, "The Government in the wider national interest would not further enlarge the Eighth Schedule." The "national interest" and the "Eighth Schedule" have been bracketed together—if the Eighth Schedule is expanded, the national interest is affected adversely. Does it not betray a pathetic attitude of the Government towards a national language of India? Do they not want to solve the language problem? Ours is a multi-lingual nation; ours is a multi-cultural nation. Here, the concept of unity should be in diversity; the concept should not be a unitary one. The culture and unity is of a composite nature. Therefore, when the Government says that the national interest would be hampered if a national language is included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, this is shameful. The Government owes a reply, an explanation, to the people outside.

Again, on the 7th August, a similar question was put and the same answer was repeated that in the wider national interest, this cannot be accepted.

As I have already mentioned, Pandit Nehru also made a remark in 1959 saying, "The Eighth Schedule is not an exhaustive list of major Indian languages." They go by the words of Pandit Nehru. They follow Nehru principles. But in this case, Nehru was conveniently forgotten.

There is no national interest involved in it. Rather, the national interest will be better served if Nepali language and other languages also are included in the Eighth Schedule. When I speak of Nepali language, I do not mean to say that I am opposed to the inclusion of other languages in the Eighth Schedule. There will be another Bill today to be moved by Dr. Karan Singh for the inclusion of another language also. I am happy. Therefore, I wish to make it clear that I want all the Indian languages to be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. As a matter of fact,

there is no necessity for the Eighth Schedule. All the Indian languages should be equal; all languages should be given proper respect; all languages should be given proper scope and opportunity to enrich themselves. Therefore, there is no necessity for the Eighth Schedule as such.

16 hrs.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You mean there should be no 'Scheduled Castes' among languages.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Yes, no Scheduled Castes among languages. I am happy he has helped me to give better expression to my feeling. There should be no Scheduled Castes in the comity of languages.

I now speak of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the present Prime Minister of the country.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You will provoke them now!

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I hope they will not be provoked.

Mrs. Gandhi is reported to have observed that the inclusion of Nepali in the Eighth Schedule should be examined from the stand-point of security. One was national interest, another is security! Now Nepali is sandwiched between national interest and security. What is the security hazard involved here? These are the things to be answered. It is 'insensible'. I do not like to use harsh words because I think harsh words won't pay dividends. It is insensible; it is incomprehensible...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is because Nepali is a sweet language.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Therefore, I would say, by what stretch of imagination can you understand that the inclusion of the language in the Eighth Schedule would constitute a security

[**Shri Chitta Basu]**

hazard to the country? Is it secession? Is it rebellion? Is it an act of treason? Is it rebellion to claim the right for a person elected by the people to come here and take the oath in his own mother-tongue? A Nepali is prevented from taking the oath in his own mother-tongue, the Nepali language. They consider it to be rebellion; they consider it to be anti-national; they consider it to be a security hazard. What is the simple thing we want? We want that every language should have the right, that every language should be given the opportunity to develop itself and achieve national recognition.

A most hostile attitude was displayed by Mr. Morarji Desai. He did not only resent....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think Mr. Dandavate also resents it.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: He did not only reject the demand for the recognition of Nepali language, but he said it is foreign language. He also threatened: 'If you want recognition of the Nepali language, be prepared for the consequences for I shall disband the Gorkha regiment'. He said 'If you insist on the recognition of Nepali language, the recognition of Nepali language, as a national literary language would be withdrawn by the Sahitya Academy'. He spoke in terms of threats and there was a counter-demonstration. He was properly received and he received it properly also...

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): At Darjeeling.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: At Darjeeling.

So, I feel, at this stage, that there is a clear case, there is an irresistible case, for the recognition of Nepali as a national language and for its inclusion in the Eighth Schedule.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: It is long overdue!

SHRI CHITTA BASU: It is long overdue, I agree; and this Government should not delay this process. In the absence of this recognition, I will only mention a few instances of persecution to which the Nepali-speaking people are exposed. The Nepali-speaking people are treated as foreigners only because of the fact that they speak a language which does not find a place in the Eighth Schedule. They are not enrolled as voters. A comparative study of the number of Nepali-speaking population and voters—Nepali-speaking citizens or Nepali-speaking Indians, whatever you may like to say—will bear this out. They are prevented from retaining Nepali as their mother-tongue for the purpose of census. The Union Government has laid down that only an Eighth Schedule language may become an official language for districts or talukas. This violates article 347 of the Constitution. I do not like to read it. It is there in article 347 that the official language in an area where the majority of the people speak a particular language can be a language different from the already-declared official language of the State; there may be more than one official language in a State.

It is a principle which has been accepted by the Government that the Eighth Schedule language alone will become the medium of instruction for secondary and higher education. This denies the Nepali-speaking people the right to receive instruction in their own language at the secondary and higher stage of education.

Lastly, articles 29 and 30 of the Constitution provide certain guarantees for the linguistic minorities. If you want, I can read them out. By virtue of the fact that the Nepali language is not in the Eighth Schedule, the Nepali-speaking people are

denied this fundamental or Constitutional guarantee as enshrined in the Constitution under articles 29 and 30.

Therefore, I would fervently appeal to all sections of the House, all the Members of this House, to rise above Party considerations and accept this Bill and thereby positively respond to the hopes and aspirations of the Nepali-speaking people of our country. That will go a long way in bringing about emotional integration which is most needed today. Therefore, I once again appeal, through you, Sir, to the House, to all the Members of the House, to all sections of the House, to support me in my request that this long-standing or long-overdue demand of the Nepali-speaking people be accepted by the Government.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Ananda Pathak

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali): I have given notice of an amendment. I want to move.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: 'Yes'.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by 31 October, 1980." (1) I want to speak on this....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can speak later on.

Mr. Ananda Pathak.

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK (Darjeeling): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Bill and I congratulate the mover of the Bill which seeks to amend the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution and include the Nepali language in the Schedule. I hope all sections of this House will lend their support to this legitimate and democratic demand of

the millions of the Nepali-speaking people of India.

First of all, please allow me to take this opportunity to dispel the notion that the Nepali language is a foreign language as some of the leaders of the ruling Party had time and again tried to spread this notion. I think Mr. Chitta Basu has already mentioned so many reasons as to why Nepali language should find a place in the Eighth Schedule and therefore, I will not elaborate on that point. But let me go on record that the Nepali language is as much an Indian language as Hindi, Bengali, Punjabi, Tamil, Malayalam and other Indian languages are.

The history of languages shows that the origin of the Nepali language was Indo-Aryan. The modern Nepali language has descended from the "Khas-Prakrit" which came to be known as "Gorkhali" after the name of the Gorkha Kings of Rajput origin. The Brahman of India with knowledge of Sanskrit got mixed up with the Rajputs and the local Mangars and Gurungs and the "Khas" tribes of Nepal and produced a language which came to be known as "Gorkhali" or "Parbatia."

The name Nepali was given by the Nepali citizens of India during the British regime and there are several historical documents to prove this statement. Therefore, I would like to say that because it is called Nepali, it is not that it was produced in Nepal. It is not so. The Nepali name was given by the Indian citizens and there are several historical documents to prove this.

According to a linguistic survey of Indian languages conducted by a Commission set up under the leadership of William Carey in 1816, Nepali was shown as one of the 33 Indian languages.

In 1820, Prof. Ayton wrote "A Grammar of Nepali Language" which was the first Nepali Grammar published from Fort William, Calcutta.

[Shri Ananda Pathak]

Next to Prof. Ayton, Rev. Turnbull wrote another Nepali Grammar in 1887 and published from India.

Sir George Grierson, the most notable and the foremost linguist of Indian languages in his "*Linguistic Survey of India*" published in 1916 gave a fair place to 'Nepali' as one of the Indian languages.

Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee has also described Nepali language as one of the Indian languages and again in 1963 he emphatically demanded recognition of Nepali language as one of the major languages of India in his famous work "*Language and Literature of India*." I will not go on elaborating these historical facts as it requires so much time.

Thus the surveys from 1771 to this date have amply proved that Nepali is an Indian language and it deserves its due place and recognition and inclusion in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

Sir, Nepali language has a rich literary and cultural heritage. Thousands of historical and literary books, novels, fiction and stories, translations and text books have been published in Nepali language from different parts of the country. The Sahitya Academy of India has already recognised this language and the left-front government in West Bengal has also set up a Nepali Sahitya Academy to promote Nepali language.

Similarly, the North Bengal, Calcutta, Patna, Varanasi, Gauhati and other universities have also introduced Nepali in the Degree and Honours Courses also. Similarly, the All India Radio in Delhi, Kurseong, Shillong, Gauhati and other places broadcast programmes in Nepali language. As a matter of fact, Nepali is the *lingua franca* of more than 2 crores of people of the Himalayan region. It is similar to Hindi, Bengali and other Indian languages.

One thing I would like to refer to. What is the purpose of the Eighth Schedule?

Examining Art. 351 of the Constitution which in the main governs the Eighth Schedule, one gains a clear understanding that those Indian languages from which Hindi as official language of Union can for its enrichment assimilate forms, styles and expressions and can draw for its vocabulary too, are to be included in the Eighth Schedule. The Scheduled languages have to be languages contributing to make Hindi as official language of the Union usable and acceptable throughout the length and breadth of the Republic.

Nepali language is also written in Devanagari script as is the case with Hindi language. If, in the long run, Hindi is to take the place of the official language of this country, I would say that Nepali language can contribute much better than any other language of the country.

We find that in Defence Services also, Nepali language has occupied a prominent place. Nepali-speaking jawans are defending our borders as a rock in the face of many odds. In 1965 and 1971 when there was war it was the Nepalese in the forefront who were defending the borders of our country. Nepali speaking people had sacrificed a lot for the independence of India. Among those who laid down their lives in fighting against British Imperialism were the martyrs like Major Durga Mulla, Capt. Dal Bahadur Thapa and many others also. But their language has not yet been given its due place in Independent India.

This demand was repeatedly voiced on the floor of this House and in the other House by prominent leaders like Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shri Samar Mukherjee, Shri Ratanlal Brahman and many others. Shri Ratanlal Brahman wanted to take his oath in Nepali but he was prevented

from taking oath in his own language because that language was not included in the Eighth Schedule. At that time there was a hue and cry. As many as 74 M.P.s. belonging to the Opposition Party submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister demanding that Nepali language should be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. But, in spite of this, Nepali language has not yet been accorded the constitutional recognition by inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

One more thing that I would like to say here. It is a pity that even after thirty-two years of our Independence, the successive Central Governments tried to dub it as a foreign language and are still following the same policy of the British Government; they are trying to follow the divide and rule policy. That is why Nepali like other languages is not given its due place in the Constitution as a recognised language. That is why we have to raise this demand time and again.

I would, therefore, like to say that with a view to undoing the injustice done so far against the language of a national mind, I urge, upon the Central Government to accept the Bill so that the sense of belonging may be infused among the Nepali-speaking citizens of India and the process of national integration may be strengthened.

Sir, before I conclude I would like to say that due to non-recognition of the different languages it has led to frustration and this frustration leads to separatist tendencies. Recently we found so much literature being distributed preaching a separate Gorkha land. It has happened because their language has not been accepted. Due to this policy of the government separatist and fissiparous tendencies are growing. It is high time that this policy is changed and the languages of the linguistic minorities are accepted and included in the Eighth Schedule

of the Constitution. I hope the hon'ble Members on the other side of the House will also support this Bill. With these words I conclude.

SHRI P. M. SUBHA (Sikkim): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am in favour of the Nepali language being included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. As a matter of fact Nepali has also come from Sanskrit. It is part and parcel of the Indian languages because in our Nepali language we will say अ, आ इ, ई, उ, ऊ. That indicates clearly it is not अ, आ, इ, ई, उ, ऊ, but we will say अ, ई। It is really part of Hindi. So, we cannot say it is a foreign language. Moreover, Gorkhali is the name after the king and these kings were the Rajputs who had gone to Nepal from India and this Nepali language is an admixture of Hindi, Sanskrit and other local languages. That is why it is called 'Nepalese' by all the media. Otherwise it is the Pahadi language. Pahadi means those who are living in the hills. So, all these cases prove that it is one of our own Indian languages. Nepalese is widely spoken in West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Dehra Dun etc. So, if these languages are kept outside the purview of politics, I do feel, our national integration will be better in future. If the Anglo Indian people are speaking English we do not call them 'foreigners'. So is the case with Nepalese. Sir, if they could be treated as brothers of Indians and their language is included in the Eighth Schedule, they will feel safety. Nepalese language is declared as the official language in Sikkim, in West Bengal,

and within India more than 10 universities have recognised this language upto the graduate level. North Bengal University has recognised Nepali language up to the master's degree. It is of course true that the inclusion of too many languages in the Eighth Schedule may create practical difficulties, but the claim of languages like Nepalese language and Maithili (which are not merely local dialects, but which have rich literature) deserve special consideration by

[**Shri P. M. Subba**]

the Government. With these words I conclude my speech.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना): उपाध्यक्ष महारोदय, मैं इस विधेयक का समर्थन करने के लिए उड़ा हुआ हूँ।

उपाध्यक्ष जी, हमारे पूर्व वक्ताओं ने बहुत ही सफाई के साथ, तथ्यों के साथ और पुरजोर शब्दों में कहा है कि नेपाली भाषा भारतीय भाषाओं में एक है, इसलिए उसकी स्वीकृति होनी चाहिए, मान्यता मिलनी चाहिए और इस प्रकार उसे 8वीं अनुसूची में शामिल किया जाना चाहिए, इस पर प्रकाश डाला है।

यह बात भी यहां पर बताई गई कि नेपाली भाषा का साहित्य क्या है।

श्री मूलचन्द डागा : आप नेपाली में बोलिए।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : केवल समझने का फर्क है।

श्री मूलचन्द डागा : आप बिहार से आ रहे हैं। क्या बिहार के अन्दर नेपाली भाषा को आपने मान लिया है?

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : हां-हां, मान लिया है।

श्री मूलचन्द डागा : एसेम्बली में बोलते हैं।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : डागा जी, आप बैठिए। लगता है नेपाली आपको समझ में नहीं आती है।

मैं यह कह रहा था कि इसका साहित्य बहुत ही विकसित है, इसकी भूमिका हमारे राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन के साथ जुड़ी हुई है। आपको मालूम नहीं है, शायद आप राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलनों के दिनों में उन लोगों के साथ काम नहीं कर सके हैं। इसलिए मैं बता रहा हूँ कि कौन-कौन लोग उस समय थे।

उपाध्यक्ष जी, मैं यह कह रहा था कि एक दीप्तिकारों से नेपाली भाषा को सम्मानित स्थान हमारे देश में मिलना चाहिए और इसके लिए आवश्यक है कि इस भाषा को 8वीं अनुसूची में शामिल किया जाना चाहिए।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you want Mr. Daga to sit, you speak in Nepali for two minutes.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: He may even speak only one sentence. I want to hear it.

एक माननीय सदस्य : सब मेंबरों के .. भाषीयों वाये, यह जरूरी नहीं है।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I thought, as you are appreciating so much Nepali language, you can speak it also.

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: I can read and can understand many things in Nepali because the script is in devnagari *lipi*.

मैं यह कह रहा था कि हमारे संविधान में अभी तक 15 भाषाओं को शामिल किया गया है। मैं माननीय सदस्यों की याददाशत को ठीक करने के लिए या दर्शात करने के लिए उनके नाम बतला दूँ। असमी, बंगाली, गुजराती, हिन्दी, कन्नड़ी, दाश्मीरी, मलयालम, मराठी, उडिया, पंजाबी, संस्कृत, तेलंगानी, तमिल, तेलगु, उर्दू-इतनी भाषाओं को 8वीं अनुसूची में शामिल किया गया है। इस समय हम लोग आप से यह निवेदन कर रहे हैं कि 16वें नम्बर पर आप नेपाली को शामिल कर लीजिये और उस को बाद हमारे माननीय सदस्य चित बस जी ने ठीक ही कहा है--दरवाजा दर्द में नीचे ए, दरवाजे को आगे के लिए भी लूला रखिए, क्योंकि हमारा जनतन्त्र जभी विकसित हो रहा है। विकसित होते हुए जनतन्त्र में...

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR (Gorakhpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as there is no quorum in the House, this discussion cannot proceed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: For your information, there is quorum in the House. The hon. Member may continue.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : इन भाषाओं में नेपाली को शामिल करने के बाद भी इसका दरवाजा हुला रखिये ताकि हमारे देश में जो और भाषाएँ विकसित हो रही हैं, हो सकता है हमारे और आपके जाने के बाद जो दूसरे लोग यहां आयेंगे कुछ अन्य भाषाओं के विकसित हों जाने के बाद उनके शामिल करने की मांग करें। हमारे देश की यह शान है कि यहां विभिन्न प्रकार की भाषाओं हैं, विभिन्न प्रकार की पोशाकें हैं, विभिन्न प्रकार के आचार-विचार हैं, विभिन्न प्रकार की संस्कृति है—एसी स्थिति में भी हम सब एक साथ मिल कर चल रहे हैं। अगर हम कप-मण्डक नीति को अपनाने की कोशिश करेंगे, इस रेस्त से आगे नहीं बढ़ेंगे, तब तो हमारे देश का जनतंत्र कानूनित हो जायेगा, विकसित नहीं हो सकेगा। इस लिये जब हम ने इतनी भाषाओं को सम्मानपूर्वक अपनाया है तो नेपाली को भी सम्मानपूर्वक अपनाना चाहिए।

अब मैं आप को बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि दो करोड़ लोग इस भाषा के दोलने वाले हमारे देश में बसते हैं।

श्री मूल चन्द डागा: यह फिगार कहां से लाये हैं?

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री: मैं आप को बतलाता हूँ—8 से 10 लाख लोग तो केवल पश्चिमी बंगाल में हैं। डागा जाहव तो बकील है, तब भी इस तरह की बात कहते हैं। पश्चिमी बंगाल के अलावा असम, पूर्वी चित्र के जितने राज्य है और खुद मेरे राज्य बिहार में कहीं लाख लोग हैं। आप लोग जो हमारे उत्तर प्रदेश के भाई यहां बैठे हैं, वे भी जानते होंगे कि उत्तर प्रदेश में भी नेपाली दोलने वालों की काफी बड़ी संख्या है। पंजाब में भी काफी लोग हैं, हिन्दुस्तान के हर सूके में हैं, जो हाथ में डण्डा लेकर आप के तमाम सरकारी और अर्ध-सरकारी कारखानों में पहरा देते हैं। बड़े-बड़े पंजीपति अपनी तिजारियों की रक्षा करने के लिए किन से काम लेते हैं—वे सब नेपाली लोग हैं। नेपाली पूरे हिन्दुस्तान में फैले हुए हैं। मैं डागा साहब से कहूँगा कि उनकी अब सरकार है और श्रीमती इन्दिरा

गांधी प्रधान मंत्री है। अब जो मरव-भृत्यारी जन-गणना होनी, उससे पता चल जाएगा कि ये लोग यहां पर एक करोड़ हैं या दो करोड़ हैं या कुछ नहीं हैं। मैं उनसे कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस का उन्हें पता लगाना चाहिए जैकिन जो भी उनकी संख्या हो, वे हमारे देश में रहते हैं और हमारे भाई हैं। आसाम में जो पूर्थकतावी आन्दोलन चलाने वाले हैं, हम उन के समर्थक नहीं हैं। कुछ उनके समर्थक हैं जो यह कहते हैं कि गोरखा या नेपाली विदेशी भाषा है। तो ऐसे लोगों के हथकंडों में आप न आइए। नहीं तो हमारे देश की एकता भंग हो सकती है। हमारे देश में वे बसे हुए हैं और हमारे स्वतन्त्रता आन्दोलन में, हमारे उन दिनों के राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन में उन लोगों ने काम किया है। डॉ. विश्वेश्वर प्रसाद कोइराला श्री मातृकी प्रसाद कोइराला और श्री दिल्ली रमम रेग्मी आदि लोग थे जिन्होंने पटना में रह कर राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन में भाग लिया था और मेरा यह सम्भाग्य है कि स्वतन्त्रता आन्दोलन के दिनों में और समाजवादी आन्दोलन के दिनों में जब कांग्रेस सोशलिस्ट पार्टी बनी थी और श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण, आचार्य नरेन्द्र देव, डॉ. सन्धूर्णानिन्द, श्री श्री प्रकाश जी और श्री अशोक महत्वता आदि नेता उस समय के राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन में शामिल थे और जिस समय समाजवादी आन्दोलन की नीवं डाली गई थी, तो वह 1934 में पटना में डाली गई थी और उस समय कांग्रेस सोशलिस्ट पार्टी का जन्म हुआ था। उस दृष्टि से एक छोटा बच्चा था जैकिन में इस बात के जानता हूँ कि हमारे देश के राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन में, हमारे देश के समाजवादी आन्दोलन में, जैसाकि मैंने उपर कहा है, इन लोगों का भारी योगदान रहा है। अगर इस चीज को आप ध्यान में नहीं रखेंगे, तो आप को जरूर यह लगता होगा कि नेपाली भाषा एक विदेशी भाषा है और यह हमारे देश की भाषा नहीं है और इसको हमारे संविधान में उचित स्थान नहीं दिया जाना चाहिए। इन तमाम बातों को सन कर ऐसा लगता है कि हमारे जो दूसरे माननीय सदस्य हैं, वे या तो पुरानी बातों को जानते नहीं हैं और अगर जानते हैं, तो उससे अनिभज बनना चाहते हैं। इस दृष्टिकोण से भी मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि इन लोगों का बोगदान-हमारे देश के डैमोक्रेटिक, जनतान्त्रिक और अजाइटी के आन्दोलन सथा समाज-

[क्षी रामावतार ज्ञास्त्री]

बादी आन्दोलन के साथ बहुत ही गहरा है और वे सारे के सारे लोग नेपाल से आ कर हमारे इस आन्दोलन में भाग लेते रहे हैं। इस के साथ-साथ नेपाल में जनतान्विक प्रणाली कायम हो, वहां पर राजतन्त्र समाप्त हो, इसके लिए जो वे लोग लड़ाई लड़ रहे हैं, उस लड़ाई के हम दोनों मिल कर लड़। स्वतन्त्रता संग्राम की लड़ाई में जो उन लोगों ने हिस्सा लिया, उस की जानकारी अगर ये हासिल करना चाहते हैं तो ये इण्डियन नेशनल कांग्रेस के इतिहास को पढ़ें। तब इन को मालूम होगा कि हमारा और नेपाली भाषा जानने वाले लोगों का क्या संबंध रखा है लेकिन इस बात को भी अगर आप नहीं मानते हैं, तो यह तो मानियेगा कि बहुत बड़ी संस्था में ये लोग हमारे देश में हैं और वे नेपाली भाषा बोलते हैं। हम जनतन्त्र को मजबूत करना चाहते हैं, तो यह जनता की भाषा में ही फल-फूल सकता है। अंग्रेजी बोल कर हमारे देश में जनतन्त्र नहीं फल-फूल सकता। नेपाली भाषा के कहीं भी हिन्दी से विरोध नहीं है। हिन्दी हमारी स्वीकृत राज-भाषा है। इसलिए हमें थोड़ा अपनी बुद्धि से काम लेना चाहिए ताकि हिन्दी एक सम्पर्क भाषा के रूप में विकसित हो। अगर उस का कोई विरोध करें, तो आप उस के बारे में अवश्य कह सकते हैं लेकिन संविधान की आठवीं शेड्यूल में जो तमाम की तमाम भाषाएँ हैं, उन भाषाओं के बोलने वाले लोग हिन्दी को सम्पर्क भाषा, लिंक लेगुएज मानते हैं और हमारा जो राज-भाषा अधिनियम 1963 का है, उस से उन का विरोध नहीं है। तो फिर आप क्यों नेपाली भाषा का विरोध कर रहे हैं। मेरा कहना यह है कि तमाम भाषाओं की एकता स्थापित कीजिए। जब आप इस देश की सारी जनता की एकता को स्थापित करने तो हमारा जनतन्त्र आगे बढ़ेगा और हमारी प्रतिष्ठा बढ़ेगी। नेपाली भाषा के संविधान की आठवीं शेड्यूल में शामिल करने से न केवल हमारी प्रतिष्ठा ही बढ़ेगी बल्कि उस में और चार चांद लग जाएंगे और लोग यह समझेंगे कि नेपाली भाषा-भाषी भा हमारे पार्द एड पार्सल है, हमारा एक अंग है। रोम रोम में वे हमारे व्याप्त हैं। नेपाली बोलने वाले भी हिन्दुस्तान के ही हैं। इस-

लिए इस भाषा का विरोध नहीं होना चाहिए। अगर किन्हीं के दिल में यह है तो उसे छोड़ देना चाहिए।

इसलिए मैं कहता हूँ कि नेपाली भाषा को भी आठवीं शेड्यूल में शामिल किया जाए। वैसे बहुत सारे सदस्यों ने बहुत कुछ कहा है, मैं उसमें नहीं जाना चाहता। लेकिन इसना कहना चाहता हूँ कि इसको संविधान की आठवीं शेड्यूल में शामिल करना जनतन्त्र के हित में होगा, हमारे देश की एकता के हित में होगा और आगे आने वाली पीढ़ी के हित में होगा। इसलिए नेपाली भाषा के आप आठवीं शेड्यूल में शामिल करें और इस अनुसूची का दरवाजा खुला रखें ताकि हमारे देश में और जो भाषाएँ विकसित हों उन्हें भी इन भाषाओं के परिवार में शामिल करने की आवश्यकता हो।

कुछ पुरानी गलती हो गयी। कुछ हमारे हिन्दी मनीषियों ने भी गलती की जिसके कारण आज हमें यह भूगतना पड़ा है कि कहीं-कहीं हिन्दी के खिलाफ आवाज उठ जाती है। मैं इस में शामिल नहीं हूँ कि हिन्दी लादी जा रही है। हिन्दी लादी नहीं जा रही है, न लादी जानी चाहिए। यह तो चाहने से आगे बढ़ेगी। कहीं-कहीं हमारी आवाज उठती है कि हिन्दी राष्ट्रभाषा है। नहीं, 15 हमारी राष्ट्र भाषाएँ हैं। इन तमाम की तमाम 15 भाषाओं को समानता के आधार पर विकसित किया जाए। यह नहीं हो कि कोई पीछे रहे, कोई आगे रहे, कोई छोटी हो, कोई बड़ी हो। छोटे और बड़े भाई हो सकते हैं लेकिन हमारे संविधान में सब के अधिकार समान हैं। अगर हम सब का बराबर का अधिकार मान कर चलेंगे और इन तमाम को राष्ट्र भाषाएँ मानेंगे तो कहीं किसी भाषा का विरोध नहीं होगा। मैं तो इस तरह की कमीटियों में काम कर रहा हूँ जो इस काम को देखती है। मुझे मालूम है कि दिल से लोग इसे स्वीकार करने के लिए तैयार हैं बशर्ते कि हम उनको ठीक से बताएं कि 1963 का राजभाषा अधिनियम क्या है। वे इसको जानते नहीं हैं। इसलिए हिन्दी बालों पर बहुत बड़ा दायित्व है। हम सब से ज्यादा हिन्दी बोलने वाले लोग हैं। अगर हम अपने दायित्व को नहीं

ज्ञानकोण और हिन्दी, हिन्दी का नारा लगाते रहे तो इस से हिन्दी का अहित होता, हमारे देश की एकता टूट जाती और हम इस भाषा को विकसित नहीं कर पाएंगे। अगर हम भाई-भाई की तरह नहीं चलेंगे तो इस भाषा को विकसित नहीं कर सकेंगे।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं मंत्री महोदय से और सदन के माननीय सदस्यों से निवेदन करूँगा कि नेपाली को आठवीं अनुसूची में शामिल करने के इस विधेयक को स्वीकार करें। जब हमारे सदन के माननीय सदस्य श्री रत्नलाल बूझमण ने इस मांग को प्रस्तुत किया था तो उस पर हमारी कम्पनिस्ट पार्टी के लोगों ने भी दस्तखत किये थे। हम इस मांग का पूरा-पूरा समर्थन करते हैं। यह मांग बहुत दिनों से चली आ रही है। इसके अब मान लिया जाना चाहिए। अगर आप हम को नहीं मानते हैं तो कहीं ऐसा न हो कि हमारे चित्त बस जैसे सदस्यों को फिर से एक ऐसा बिल न लाना पड़े। इसलिए मेरा यही निवेदन है कि इसको अब मान लिया जाना चाहिए।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Mool Chand Daga. You can also speak on your amendment while speaking on the Bill.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali): I have already moved.

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by 31st October, 1980."

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जिस नायक स्थिति से देश गुजर रहा है, उस में हमारे माननाय सदस्य अपने गले की पूरे जोर की आवज के साथ इस मांग को रख रहे हैं। जब हमारे आर्मेंट में दम नहीं होता है तो हम अपने गले से इतने जोर की आवज करते हैं और इतने जोर से बोलते हैं। इस प्रकार की आवज सदन में उस समय उठ रही है जब कि देश में महगाई का प्रश्न है, लाएंड आर्डर का प्रश्न है। जहां देश में इस प्रकार की बड़ी-बड़ी समस्याएं हैं वहां हमारे माननीय सदस्य यह प्रस्ताव, यह बिल लाएं हैं। अगर इसको मान लिया जाता है तो कल को राजस्थान के लोग खड़े होंगे कि

हमारी राजस्थानी भाषा को भी आठवें लोड-यूल में शामिल किया जाए। कल लोग मौथिली भाषा के लिए खड़े होंगे कि इसी भी उसमें शामिल कर लिया जाए। दूसरी कोकणी के लिए भी खड़े होंगे कि इस भाषा को भी शामिल कर लिया जाए। जितने भी माननीय सदस्यों ने इस बहुत में भाग लिया है उन में किसी ने भी नेपाली भाषा का न तो अध्ययन किया है और न ही इस भाषा में वह बोला और न ही नेपाली भाषा के किसी राइटर की किसी बुक को उसने कोट किया है। पार्लियामेंट की लाइब्रेरी में भी जहां और बहुत से समाचार पत्र देखने को मिल जाते हैं नेपाली भाषा का काइर्स समाचार पत्र को पढ़ने में रुचि रखते हैं। इस दिल के आवर्जन्क्ट्स एंड रीजन में यह कहा गया है कि दो, तीन करोड़ नेपाली स्थीकिंग लोग हिन्दुस्तान में हैं। मैं आपको जनगणना के आंकड़े देना चाहता हूँ। 1950 में उनकी संख्या 4 लाख 22 हजार थी, 1961 में 10 लाख 21 हजार और 1971 में 12 लाख 87 हजार। बंगाल को ही आप लें। वहां एक प्रतिशत लोग भी नेपाली भाषा नहीं बोलते हैं। सिविकम की दो लाख की आबादी है। वहां केवल 1 लाख 28 हजार लोग ही इस भाषा के जानते हैं। आपने दो तीन, करोड़ की बात कही है। यदि आप सौंसस फिर्गर्ज से मझे यह आंकड़ा निकाल कर दिखा दें तो मैं आपकी बात को मान लूँगा।

हमारे चित्त बस जी को नेपाली से प्रेम है। शास्त्री जी भी काफी विद्यान है। सभी भाषाओं के वह पारंगत हैं। अभी डा. साहब का बिल भी आएगा। मैं चाहता हूँ कि शास्त्री जी रिसर्च करें नेपाली भाषा पर और फिर किताब लिखें। आज मैं चाहता था कि काइर्स माननीय सदस्य नेपाली में यहां भाषण करता—

श्री आनन्द पाठक: अभी भी मैं बोल सकता हूँ यदि सभापति महोदय मुझे बोलने की इजाजत दें।

श्री चूल चन्द डागा: 1950 में यह संविधान बना था और हम ने हिन्दी को राष्ट्रीय भाषा माना था। मुझे दुख के साथ कहना

[श्री मूल चन्द डागा]

जहांता है कि जैसे रामावतार शास्त्री जी कह रहे थे आज भी हम लोग हिन्दू में बात करने में, हिन्दू में बोलने में उत्तम गोरव-नित अपने कर्ते नहीं मानते हैं जितना अंग्रेजी में बोलने और बात करने पर मानते हैं। हम 68 कर्तार के प्रतिभित्र राष्ट्र भाषा हिन्दू में बोलने और बात करने में गैरिक का अनुभव नहीं करते हैं और एक विदेशी भाषा में बोलने और बात करने में करते हैं। मैं इस बात को कहना नहीं चाहता था तो किन मुझे कहनी पड़ गई है।

एक बार इसी सदन में यह सवाल आया था कि राजस्थानी को आठवें शैड्यूल में स्थान दिया जाए। मैं राजस्थान का रहने वाला हूँ। मैंने इसका विरोध किया था और इसीलए किया था कि राजस्थान में कई जगह तो मारवाड़ी बोली जाती है, कई जगह मेवाड़ी बोली जाती है और कई जगह कोई दूसरी भाषायें बोली जाती हैं। अलग अलग भाषाओं वहां बोली जाती है। जब वहां राजा महाराजा हुआ करते थे तो जो भाषायें उनके पसन्द हुया करती थीं उनमें वे बड़े अच्छे-अच्छे ग्रन्थ लिखवा दिया करते थे आज राजस्थान का रहने वाला विधार्थी हिन्दुस्तान में न तो हिन्दू ही ठीक बाल सकता है और न अंग्रेजी पर ही उसका कमांड है। सिनेमा एक ऐसा साधन है जिसके द्वारा हिन्दुस्तान में हिन्दू कई लोग जानते हैं। आज आप नेपाली की बात करते हैं, क्या आप यह दावा करते हैं कि इन भाषाओं की विसर्च हो, इन भाषाओं में नई जान फूंकी जायें? आर्टिकल 29 और 30 इस बात पर संकेत दें करते हैं और आप हुद जानते हैं। आर्टिकल 29 में है कि—

"Any section of the citizens residing in the territory of India or any part thereof having a distinct language, script or culture of its own shall have the right to conserve the same."

हमारे संविधान के अनुच्छेद 29 में साफ है कि हम यह नहीं चाहते कि उस भाषा को न रखा जाये। आर्टिकल 30 कहता है कि—

"All minorities, whether based on religion or language, shall have the

right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice."

मैं एक बात जानना चाहता था कि ज्ञाननीय सदस्य यहां बड़ी हिम्मत के साथ बोल रहे थे, क्या वह अपने बच्चों को या अपने परिवार के लोगों को नेपाली स्कूलों में भेजकर नेपाली की द्वेनिंग दिलवायेंगे?

एक ज्ञाननीय सदस्य : हम भेजते हैं।

श्री मूल चन्द डागा : हां, आप एक ही हैं। यहां पर इन भाषाओं का जो पैंडोराज बाक्स खोला गया है, मैं चाहता था कि केन्द्रीय सरकार को इस बात पर निर्णय ले। हमारी यहां मणिपुरी भाषा है, बड़ी रिच लैग्यूज है, अख्डारों में निकलता है, मैं तो मणिपुरी जानता नहीं। इसी तरह से हिमाचली है।

अभी हमारे डा. कर्णसिंह जी भी एक बिल डोगरी भाषा का लेकर आये हैं। इसी तरह से कितनी ही भाषाएं हैं, मैथिली है, मण्डी है, भांजपुरी है, भगवान जाने कितनी भाषाएं हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि एक बार केन्द्रीय सरकार इस तरह का बिल लाये।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : सर्वियत यूनियन में 100 भाषाएं हैं, सब मिलकर चल रही हैं। (व्यवधान)

श्री मूलचन्द डागा : हिन्दुस्तान की एकता और राष्ट्रीयता की दृष्टि से मैं चाहता हूँ कि इन सारी भाषाओं का विकास हो, उनका अध्ययन हो लैंकिन ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिये कि उन भाषाओं के जानने वाले लोग हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर गिने-बूने ही रहें। अभी हमारे डा. कर्णसिंह साहब अपना प्रस्ताव रखेंगे, वह भी अंग्रेजी में ही रखेंगे या हिन्दू भाषा में रखेंगे। क्यों रखेंगे, क्योंकि वह जानते हैं कि उन्हें तो जनता के उपर यह बात कायम करनी है कि उन्होंने डोगरी भाषा के लिये अपनी बात उठाई है। आज डोगरी भाषा में अगर पब्लिक सर्विस कमीशन में एजामिनेशन होने लगे तो क्या आप समझते हैं कि उस भाषा का विकास इडियन नॉलनल लैग्यूज हिन्दू के बरबर हो जायेगा या उन लोगों को अपने स्कूलों में अवशी

भाषा की एजेंकेशन होनी चाहत कर दी तो उन विचारित्यों में कछु दिन के बाद डोगरी, राजस्थानी और नेपाली में बोलने की आदत हो जायेगी, और इस कारण उनके हिन्दूस्तान के भेनस्ट्रीम, मूल्य धारा, में शामिल होने में कठिनाई होगी। माननीय सदस्य, श्री चित्त दसु, एक पंडित राज बाक्स लोलना चाहते हैं। वह यह प्रस्ताव ला कर नेपाली-भाषी भूत-दाताओं को सुश करना चाहते हैं कि मैंने तो बड़े जोर से आदाज उठाई कि नेपाली को आठवें शिड्यूल में शामिल कर लिया जाये, लेकिन क्या करें कांग्रेस सरकार ने नहीं माना। मैं सरकार से कहना चाहता हूँ कि वह इस बारे में एक दफा और विचार कर ले कि हिन्दी को रिच और मजबूत बनाने के लिए देश की किन भाषाओं को आठवें शिड्यूल में रखना है। अभी एक दक्षता कह रहे थे कि नेपाली एक सिस्टर लैंग्वेज है, हिन्दी तथा नेपाली की लिपि एक ही है। मेरा कहना यह है कि हिन्दी भाषा को मजबूत किया जाये। जिसने रिसर्च करनी है, साहित्य पढ़ना है, वह दूसरी भाषाओं का अध्ययन करें। श्री चित्त दसु को पढ़ने का शौक है। वह इस बारे में किताबें लिखे, जिन को पढ़ कर लोग कहेंगे कि हिन्दूस्तान की धरती पर ऐसे स्कॉलर पैदा हुए हैं, जो इतनी भाषाओं को जानते हैं।

अगर आठवें शिड्यूल को बहुत लम्बा बना दिया जायेगा, तो हिन्दूस्तान जिन हालात में से गुजर रहा है, उनमें कितनी कठिनाइयां पैदा होंगी, आप इसका अन्दाजा लगायें। राजस्थान में एसेम्बली की भाषा हिन्दी है। वहां कोई राजस्थानी में नहीं बोलता है। लैंकिन वहां यह आदाज उठाई जाती है कि राजस्थानी को सरकारी भाषा बनाया जाये। स्कूलों में तालीम हिन्दी में दी जाती है। राजस्थानी में कोई पुस्तक लिखी हुई नहीं है और न कोई बच्चा राजस्थानी में पढ़ता है, लैंकिन वाह-वाही लेने के लिए राजस्थानी भाषा का नारा लगाया जाता है।

नेपाली और राजस्थानी आदि भाषाओं में जो अच्छे शब्द हैं, उन्हें राष्ट्रभाषा में सम्मिलित कर दिया जाये। वे भाषायें फले-फूले, दिक्षित हैं। संविधान इस पर कोई रोक नहीं लगता है। लैंकिन आजादी

के तीस साल बाद भी हम उत्तर से दक्षिण तक और पूर्व से पश्चिम तक सारे देश की एक भाषा कायम नहीं कर सके हैं। हम लोग हिन्दी को थोपना नहीं चाहते हैं। लैंकिन कहीं राज्यों में आज भी लोग ऐलान करते हैं, चुनावों में यह प्रोग्राम बनाया जाता है कि हम हिन्दी को बदायत नहीं करेंगे। देश में एक ताकायम करने के लिए एक भाषा का होना आवश्यक है। दूसरी भाषाओं का भी पूरा विकास हो। अच्छा होता कि सरकार खुद एक कानून है-सिव बिल ले कर आती कि किन किन भाषाओं को आठवें शिड्यूल में रखना है। आर्टिकल 347 में कहा गया है:—

"On a demand being made in that behalf the President may, if he is satisfied that a substantial proportion of the population of a State desire the use of any language spoken by them to be recognised by that State, direct that such language shall also be officially recognised throughout that State or any part thereof for such purpose as he may specify."

मैं कहता हूँ कौन आप को इन आर्टिकल्स में मना करता है? मैं आज भी देश रहा हूँ, दिलक स्कॉल्स का क्रिटिसिज्म हो रहा है। आज हमारे बच्चे हिन्दी के अंदर ठीक बोलना नहीं जानते, इंगिश में बोलने में अपना गौरव समझते हैं। तो जिस हालत में देश गुजर रहा है उसमें आप इन छोटी छोटी समस्याओं का खड़ी कर देंगे तो उस से और कठिनाई ही बढ़ेगी। हम कहते हैं कि आप केंद्रीय सरकार पर छोड़ दीजिए या एक पार्लियामेंट की कमेटी बना लीजिए, उसमें बैठ कर सोच लीजिए कि आठवें शिड्यूल में और कौन-कौन सी भाषा रखी जा सकती है।

17 hrs.

मेरी समझ में देश को एकता के सूत्र में बांधने के लिए एक भाषा होनी चाहिए और दूसरी भाषाएं उसकी एनीस्टलरी के रूप में कायम करें। उन भाषाओं के अंदर जो अच्छे-अच्छे शब्द और अच्छी अच्छी बातें हैं उनको लेकर कायम किया जाय। उनका भी ध्यान रखा जाय अन्यथा उन क्षेत्रों के रहने वाले लोग पीछे

[बी मूल शब्द डागा]

रह जाएँगे और हमारे भारत के स्तर पर, देश के स्तर पर उनकी आवाज आगे नहीं आएगी। आज भी अंग्रेजी जानने वाले सारे संकेटीरेट को डामिनेट किए हुए हैं। हिन्दी जानने वाला आदमी संकेटीरेट में डामिनेट नहीं करता। वो सबाल है। आप नेपाली सिखाएँ या और भाषा सिखाएँगे, तो उन भाषाओं को जानने वाले विद्यार्थी न हिन्दी में ठीक बोल सकेंगे या काम कर सकेंगे न अंग्रेजी में काम कर सकेंगे। केवल डोगरी भाषा में बोलना शुल्क कर देंगे और वह आवाज अलग निकलेगी। जो मूल्य आवाज है, जो मूल्य धारा है जिस में हम बहना चाहते हैं उस में वे नहीं बह सकेंगे। उनसे हम शब्द ले लें। लेकिन यह नहीं कि अलग अलग भाषाएं और अलग अलग सब चीजें हैं। मूल्क में जितनी ज्यादा भाषाएं रहेंगी उसका विकास, उसकी वृद्धि कितनी मूश्किल होंगी? मैंने देखा है रेलवे के अंदर जहां अंग्रेजी में नाम लिखे हुए थे, कुछ लोगों ने वह नाम मिटा दिए। कहीं हिन्दी में लिखे हुए थे लोगों ने उन बोर्डों को काला कर दिया। आज तो देश में ये बातें चलती हैं और उसमें आप नेपाली को कह रहे हैं कि मारारजी ने यह कह दिया, मैं कहता हूँ, मारारजी ने कुछ भी कह दिया हो, बहुत गहराई के साथ चिंतन करने की जरूरत इँहैं। आटीकिल 29 और 30 माजूद हैं और उसमें हम अपनी भाषा का विकास कर सकते हैं। हम हिन्दुस्तान के अंदर एक भाषा करें, हिन्दी के मजबूत करने के लिये सारी ताकत लगाएं और जितनी भाषाएं हैं उनके शब्दों के और साहित्य को ट्रांसलेट करके ले लें। यह करें तो ज्यादा अच्छा होंगा। इसलिए मैंने इस पर जनमत जानने का प्रस्ताव रखा है। जनमत जाना जाय, पूछ लिया जाय हिन्दुस्तान के 68 करोड़ लोगों से कि इन भाषाओं के लिए शेड्यूल खोला जाय या नहीं?

आज कई नेपाली लोग दिल्ली में रहते हैं, और कई जगहों में रहते हैं, वे बिलकुल ठीक हिन्दी बोलते हैं, हिन्दी भाषा में उनके बच्चे पढ़ते हैं, आगे बढ़ते हैं। आप इस तरह से नई नई बात कर के कुछ अपने बोर्टर्स को लूप करना चाहते हैं, कुछ छोटी मोटी प्राप्ति या उपलब्धि के लिए ऐसा कर रहे हैं। नेपाली न तो आप जानते हैं, न रामावतार जास्ती जानते हैं, न चित बसु ने कभी नेपाली

का अध्ययन किया हुआ। सेकिन बिल उसके लिए वा या है तो उसकी सपोर्ट करना आप का काम है। वै केवल एक बात कह कर समाप्त करूँ वा कि इसकी जनमत पर छोड़ दिया जाय। आज नेपाली में कितनी प्रबल आप ने देखी है, कितनी प्रबल नेपाली की विज्ञान भवन में दिखलाई गई है। आप हिन्दी के अंदर आएं और हिन्दी को मजबूत करने के लिए काम करें, यही भरा कहना है।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Shri Chitta Basu, a very effective Member of Lok Sabha, has again come with a Constitution (Amendment) Bill, this time pleading for inclusion of Nepali in the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution and followed by Dr. Karan Singh, who is also bringing a similar Bill but pleading for inclusion of Dogri also in the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution. I can very well understand the predicament of Dr. Karan Singh because he represents two languages. Maharani Sahiba speaks Nepali and Dr. Karan Singh speaks Dogri. He does not want to be partial. He is impartial to both. That is why he has brought Nepali also along with Dogri.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: It is a human question.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: Yes, human question. I very well appreciate Dr. Karan Singh's predicament in this matter.

Several Members have spoken very vehemently with regard to the necessity of including Nepali in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Sir, while pleading for the inclusion of Nepali, Shri Chitta Basu made certain points on which I would like to state clearly the stand of the Government. First, he said that there are 67 lakhs of Nepali-speaking people in the country. I do not want to dispute on that score, but we have to depend

on certain data and statistics. According to 1971 census, the Nepali-speaking population in the country is 12.87 lakhs (Interruptions) of which 8.65 lakhs are in West Bengal alone and the rest of them are in Sikkim. Sikkim is the State which has declared Nepali as official language. Even in West Bengal also, in three districts Nepali is the official language.

Sir, even in the Constitution, Article 347 clearly says that non-inclusion of a particular language in the Eighth Schedule does not preclude its use as official language in a particular State under certain conditions. Now the question is, even without being included in this Eighth Schedule if such languages which are not being declared as official languages are enjoying all the facilities that go with an official language, why should Members insist that Nepali language should be included in the Eighth Schedule?

Sir, I would enumerate the various steps that have been taken to help the various languages in the country, not only maintain their cultural heritage, but also develop their language in a free and unfettered manner.

The Linguistic Minorities Commission also, in their Seventh Report, said:

"The number of schools imparting instruction of Nepali remained 66 as in the previous year. The number of pupils rose to 19,411 from 19,351. The number of people learning Nepali as a language rose to 351 from 249. The number of teachers went up to 561 from 558."

In the same report, about the use of Nepali language, it has been clearly stated:

"Bengali is the official language in West Bengal, but in three hill subdivisions of Darjeeling District, namely Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong, Nepali also is used for official purposes in addition to Bengali."

Nepali language has been recognised as one of the important languages of the country by the Sahitya Akademi, and there has been consistent effort to give all possible assistance to develop this very rich language.

Mr. Chitta Basu stated, if I remember aright, that the Prime Minister had said that if Nepali was included in the Eighth Schedule, it would create some tension, it would be a security hazard. I would like to put the record straight. In 1973 this question came up in Parliament. Shri Indrajit Gupta raised this matter of inclusion of Nepali in the Eighth Schedule. With your permission, I would like to quote what the Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, stated on that occasion. She said:

"I entirely agree with what Shri Indrajit Gupta has said, that it is better to decide across the table than to allow it to get hotted up, and that is what we are trying to do."

I would like to emphasize the words, "That is what we are trying to do."

"As the House knows, no question is a simple question. It will always have various reactions and, therefore, we have to see what the other likely repercussions are."

This is what she said. She never said that it would be a security hazard. It was never the intention of the Prime Minister or the Government of India to discriminate between one language and another.

Ours is a composite culture. From Kashmir to Kanya Kumari this is a multi-lingual country where different languages and dialects are spoken. Yet, there is unity in diversity. We have inherited a composite culture, with respect for each language and religion. No language is inferior to any other language. All the languages have got their rich background and heritage. Several poets and learned people have written books enriching their literature.

[**Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah**]

Here, the crux of the problem is this. When it has been recognised as an official language in Sikkim and Bengal, why not go a step further and include it in the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution? For your information I may say that in certain States English also is the official language, for instance in Meghalaya, Nagaland and Mizoram. In Manipur, Manipuri is the official language. English has become a part and parcel of our Indian languages. But the framers of our Constitution have said that the Indian languages alone are to be included in the Eighth Schedule. Now because of various factors and circumstances, English also has become a language of our country.

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Only 2 per cent of our people know English.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: The percentage has no relevance at all. As a matter of fact, Sindhi is spoken by a small number of people. Perhaps, our friend, Mr. Ram Jethmalani, knows Sindhi—I do not know. But still for emotional and historical reasons, Sindhi has been included in the Eighth Schedule.

“એજાબ સિન્ધુ ગુજરાત મરાઠા” —that is line in our National Anthem, that is being sung, although, unfortunately, Sind is not with us.

As I said, for various emotional and historical reasons, Sindhi has also been included in the Eighth Schedule.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Why not Nepali?

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: I am coming to that. This is a national problem. By touching only a fringe of the problem, it will not help us to arrive at a satisfactory consensus with regard to inclusion of languages in the Eighth Schedule. We cannot prevent friends from demanding inclusion of other languages and more so, when

they have been recognised as the official language. The best solution would be, as suggested by our Prime Minister, to tackle the matter and decide it across the table. A consensus should be arrived at, with regard to enlarging the scope of the Eighth Schedule by including some other languages, after taking into confidence the various sections of our society, the various linguistic groups. I would only appeal to the hon. member that, in the context of what I have said, he may withdraw the Bill and give an opportunity to the Government to ponder over, think over the matter in a broader way and help us to arrive at a consensus and to find a reasonable solution. I do respect the sentiments expressed by the hon. member. Nepali is a vibrant language, as Mr. Chitta Basu said. It is not at all inferior to any other language. Every language is as rich and as vibrant as any other language. So, I would again request the hon. Member, Shri Chitta Basu, to withdraw the Bill in the present context and allow the Government to give a deep thought to this matter and arrive at a reasonable conclusion.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am really thankful to the hon. members who have taken part in this debate. I am equally thankful to the hon. Minister, Mr. Venkatasubbaiah, for the spirit he has displayed during his speech. I am also glad to find that he has understood the spirit with which I have moved this Bill.

At the outset, I want to set the records straight about the reported remark or alleged remark about Mrs Gandhi's attitude towards the demand of Nepali-speaking people. I simply quoted from a memorandum prepared by All-India Nepali Bhasha Samiti, Darjeeling, West Bengal, wherein they say:

“A delegation led by All-India Nepali Bhasha Samiti met the then Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, at New Delhi on 15th April, 1972 and it was made out that the question of inclusion of Nepali n

the Eighth Schedule needed to be examined from the stand-point of security."

I want to put the record straight that I have got some material on the basis of which I made that remark. My feeling is quite clear that it is not a security hazard and it does not adversely affect the national interest. Rather, it serves the national interest in bringing about the national unity, integrity and, more so, emotional integrity.

As early as in 1973, in the course of a reply to Mr. Indrajit Gupta, she mentioned that she was prepared to discuss the matter across the table. That was the commitment made in the year 1973. It is now 1980. She was not in power only for 2-1/2 years. In 1977, in 1976, in 1975 and in 1974, as far as I know, as the All-India Nepali Bhasha Samiti has remarked, there was no sincere or serious effort on the part of the Prime Minister to have the matter discussed across the table. This also betrays the attitude of the Government and the Prime Minister, with all respect I say. If the hon. Minister can give an assurance to the House that within a certain period of time he is prepared to convene a meeting of all party leaders and the representatives, of the All-India Nepali Bhasha Samiti and discuss the matter across the table and he accepts, on principle, the legitimacy of the demand of the Nepali-speaking people of our country, on the justification of the recognition of the Nepali language as an Indian national language, naturally, it leave room for everybody to have a second thought over the issue.

My intention or object is not to create any disillusion. My object is not to do anything which creates any such feeling in the minds of the Nepali-speaking people. What I want to say is that there is a strong sentiment, there is a strong movement, even today. As my comrade Pathak said, even today, some meetings are being

organised in Darjeeling and at several other places on this particular demand for the recognition of Nepali as an Indian national language and for the inclusion of Nepali in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Therefore, it is not the question that I have raised. Quite a large chunk of our Indian population has been raising this question since long time past. They are still conducting peaceful democratic agitations. The Government should respond to it positively.

So far as I have understood the hon. Minister, there is no positive response to the urges and aspirations of the people and there is no positive display of response to the movement which is now being dominated by the All-India Nepali Bhasha Samiti. Therefore, the question is: what practical steps the Government propose to take in the matter? If they want to shelve it, then naturally I will have to take recourse to the usual method. But if they really and sincerely feel that there is scope for discussing the matter across the table, and they are sincere and serious about it, they will call a meeting of the Leaders of all Parties, they will call representatives of the All India Nepali Bhasha Committee and, naturally, I think the House will consider the appeal of the Minister.

Lastly I would say that Nepali is not altogether different from Hindi. The very constitutional purpose of enriching Hindi will be fulfilled. Therefore, there is nothing in the argument of Mr. Daga, that the demand for recognition of Nepali as one of the languages in the Eighth Schedule would be opposed to the interests of the Hindi language. I think he has taken a mistaken view of things.

I shall refer to Art. 351. It says:

"It shall be the duty of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language, to develop it so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite

[Shri Chitta Basu]

culture of India and to secure its enrichment by assimilating without interfering with its genius, the forms, style and expressions used in Hindustani and in the other languages of India specified in the Eighth Schedule, and by drawing, wherever necessary or desirable, for its vocabulary, primarily on Sanskrit and secondarily on other languages."

Therefore, there is an element of discrimination that the Hindi language should be enriched and enriched through the assimilation of words, expressions etc., only from languages in the Eighth Schedule. Nepali is not there; Rajasthani is not there; Bhojpuri is not there; Manipuri is not there. I think my Party's feeling—and I think of other Parties also—is that there should not be any exhaustible list in the Eighth Schedule. As a matter of fact, I had said earlier that there is no necessity for the Eighth Schedule. All Indian languages are equal; all Indian languages ought to be equally encouraged; all Indian languages should be given equal opportunity. Why should there be Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes among languages or non-scheduled languages.

Therefore, this is in the spirit of national unity; it is in the spirit of bringing about emotional integrity or unity. Here, I am surprised to find that Mr. Daga could not understand the basic essence of Indian unity. The basic essence of Indian unity is not the unity of Hindi speaking people. The basic essence of the unity of India is the unity of all language groups, of people of all cultures. I am sorry that this monolithic approach is still being encouraged. That will strike at the root of Indian unity as a whole.

Therefore, having regard to all these things, if the Hon. Minister, on behalf of the Government, is in a position to assure us that, immediately, specific steps will be taken by way of calling a meeting of all Parties'

Leaders and representatives of the All India Nepali Bhasha Committee naturally, from my side, there will be room for reconsideration of the whole thing.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: Whatever I wanted to say, I have said in so many words. I would again appeal to the Hon. Member...

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: He has quoted the Prime Minister's assurance; it would be decided across the table. From 1973, no table has been found. At least you say that there will be a table found...

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: It takes some time to take stock of the situation. What the Prime Minister has said holds good even today.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: There is a very big movement outside behind this demand. You are not giving consideration to that. That is why there is the urgency, and it has been raised. We know that, by vote, it will be defeated..

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: Why should we divide the House on this? What the Prime Minister has said holds good even today.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: We want some assurance so that we may be able to carry it to the Nepali-speaking people that, out of the debate, we got this assurance from the Government. That is what we want. We are not interested in getting votes or getting defeated. We want that there should be some assurance which we can carry to the Nepali-speaking people who have been raising this demand for years and years. Now, big demonstrations are going on. Subsequently there will be *bundh* and other forms of agitation. Keeping in mind today's overall situation, you must consider this; these emotional questions are very important. That is why, we want some assurance that at least

one table would be found and persons would also be found to sit around the table. That may be done within three months or six months. But then you say that. If you say that, then we will carry this to them and they will wait for six months.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: I have nothing more to add. I will only reiterate that the sentiments and feelings expressed by the hon. Members here will be conveyed to the Prime Minister. I again reiterate that what the Prime Minister has said certainly holds good. I again request Shri Chitta Basu, my good friend not to divide the House on this emotional issue.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Having regard to the sentiments, the Government's policy announced, the Prime Minister's assurance, I do not like to press my Bill for vote. I hope that the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and the Home Minister will convey to the Prime Minister that, in deference to her assurance, I am not pressing this for vote. Remember it that there is a big movement outside, and this assurance will assuage their feelings and create conditions for strengthening the national unity and integrity of our country.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Daga's amendment...

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: I want to withdraw my amendment.

Amendment No. 1 was, by leave withdrawn.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to Shri Chitta Basu to withdraw his Bill."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, I withdraw the Bill.

17.34 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

(Amendment of Eighth Schedule)
by DR. KARAN SINGH

DR. KARAN SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in every great civilisation, language has been looked upon as a divine gift, the *Shabda Brahma* or the divine word. In all the great classics of the civilization that humanity has produced over the last 10,000 years, you will find a special place given to language, because, it is language that has distinguished ultimately our species from the millions of other species that inhabit this world. Man developed as man because of the development of language and the whole magnificent edifice of civilisation that we have seen over the last 10,000 years owes its origin and existence to the development of language. It is, therefore, that language touches something very deep within the human psyche. It is not simply a question of wanting a vote here as my good friend, Shri Moolchand Daga very uncharitably hinted. It is very much more than that, because a people who are deprived of the full utilisation of their language do suffer from some sense of grievance and from some sense of an unfair treatment.

In the development of the Indian civilisation many languages have played their role. The Indus Valley script has not yet been deciphered and when it is, I am sure we will find that the language used in Mohenjodaro and Harappa was also a great and noble language...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): It is more akin to Tamil, your language, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir.

DR. KARAN SINGH: May be, it will turn out to closely resemble yours. *Deva-vani* Sanskrit is the base of many of the Indian languages. Tamil and other great languages have made their contribution towards building up the Indian civilisation.

Now, about Hindi, in particular, I will say a word.

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपको बाज़ा से बयने मिल श्री मूलचन्द डागा से बड़ी विनम्र प्रार्थना करना चाहता हूँ कि हिन्दी के प्रचार करने का सामाजिक केवल इस देश में ही नहीं, बल्कि दूसरे भूमि भी मुझे मिला है। आपको स्मरण होगा दितीय विश्व हिन्दी सम्मेलन मारीशस में हुआ था, और उसमें भारतीय प्रतिनिधि भंडल की अध्यक्षता करने का सामाजिक मुझे प्राप्त हुआ और वह हमने कृष्ण महत्वपूर्ण निश्चय और निर्णय किये जिससे हिन्दी के केवल भारत की भाषा ही नहीं बल्कि एक विश्व भाषा के रूप में हम आगे ले जाते हैं।

मैं बड़े विनम्र रूप से डागा जी से प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि हिन्दी के प्रचार और प्रसार में और डांगरी या नेपाली को अपना उचित स्थान देने में कार्य प्रतिरोध और कार्य विरोध नहीं होना चाहिए। यदि हमारे सदन में बहुत सारे सदस्य मराठी बोलते हैं और हिन्दी भी बोलते हैं या बहुत सारे सदस्य गुजराती बोलते हैं और हिन्दी भी बोलते हैं, तो क्या कारण है कि यदि हम नेपाली और डांगरी बोलें तो उसमें हिन्दी को किसी प्रकार को क्षति पहुँचेगी? मेरा अनुरोध है कि यह विष्टिकाण उचित नहीं है। हिन्दी राष्ट्रभाषा है, हम राष्ट्रभाषा के रूप में हिन्दी का आदर करते हैं, लेकिन हमारे भारतवासियों को जो मातृभाषा है, उसका एक अपना स्थान होता है।

The mother-tongue has a very special place in the life and cultural configuration of every individual. Therefore, it is that there are in India to-day two categories of citizens, and in this House also. One category are those who in this House can take their oath in their mother tongue and whose mother tongue is enshrined in this document which is not a small book but which represents the urges and aspirations

of crores and crores of Indian and which is the end product of one of the greatest national movements that the world has ever seen. In this document the majority of the Members of Parliament find their mother tongue. They can take their oath when they are elected in their mother tongue. But there is a minority of members in this House whose mother tongue does not find any place in this sacred document and who cannot take their oath in their mother tongue. My good friend, Shri Kochak, when he was elected, took oath in Kashmiri. My friends from Punjab can take their oath in Punjabi but when those of us who come from Dogri-speaking areas are elected, we are unable to take our oath in our mother tongue. The same thing applies to the Members of Parliament who are Nepali-speaking, whether it is from Shillong, whether it is from Sikkim and whether in the list of Rajya Sabha.... (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dr. Saheb. I think you should confine your speech to Dogri. About Nepali hon. Members have already spoken.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Sir, I have some points with regard to Nepali because my Bill covers both. In the last Parliament we had made a list of about 10 or 12 people who were Nepali-speaking from Arunachal Pradesh and so on both in the Rajya Sabha as well as in the Lok Sabha. The Bill that I have introduced seeks to set right one of the anomalies, one of the injustices, that continue to exist in our Constitution. And therefore, I have clubbed Nepali and Dogri together. My good friend, Shri Venkatasubbaiah has pointed out that, maybe, my clubbing the Nepali language with Dogri language is out of certain domestic compulsion. Sir, I would not wholly deny that. But, I would respectfully point out that these languages have something in common which I would urge the hon. Members of this House to give careful consideration to.

Sir, they are both spoken by, I would say, roughly about two million people

each. I know that in the 1971 census there were roughly 1.3 million Nepali-speaking people and 1.3 million Dogri-speaking people—they are exactly the same. I think that over the ten years, there has been development and you will find that in 1980-81 census there will be about two million Dogri-speaking people and about two million Nepali-speaking people which, though not very large, when compared with massive Indians, none the less, is not an insubstantial figure. There are many nations in the United Nations whose population is less than two million. And here we have about two million Dogri-speaking Indian people and two million Nepali-speaking Indians.

My second point is that both these languages are recognised in some States as has been pointed out by Shri Chitta Basu and other hon. Members who spoke just now. Nepali is a recognised language in West Bengal; Nepali is the regional language in Sikkim and is also spoken in some other State. Similarly, in the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir, Dogri is recognised. So, it is not as if these are languages which have not been already recognised to some extent. What we are saying is that the level of recognition now should be raised from the regional level to the national level. Both these languages have been recognised by the Sahitya Akademi as independent Modern Indian languages and a large number of works have been written—plays, proses, poetry and so on—in these languages. These are widely published. So, both have the rich tradition, the culture and both have the folk tradition. So, Sir, I would submit that both these languages are spoken by Indian citizens living in very sensitive border areas of this nation. Sir, as you know, the Himalayas are the great birth-place of Indian Culture. Maha Kavi Kalidasa, in his first Sloka of *Kumara Sambhava*, you will recall, says:

ब्रह्मपुरुषरम्भं दिविष व्येतारम्भं, हिमालये नमः
नपापिधरमः ।
पूर्विर्वा तारेनिधी उक्तगात्म्य, तिवरिः शूष्मित्या
हृद मात्रदण्डः ॥

This great Himalaya stands like a measuring rod of the world spread. There are Dogri-speaking Indians and Nepali-speaking Indians who inhabit the Himalayas. We have the proud privilege. We have not come to-day. For centuries, we have laid down our lives for the integrity and unity of this nation. Whenever there is an aggression upon India, we are among the first people who bear the brunt of this aggression.

Certainly, the army is composed of all communities and it is a national army. But, we are proud of it. You take the Dogra regiment, you take the Jat regiment; you take the Gorkha regiment; you take the grenadiers. We are proud that we have given, perhaps, of them as Mr. Venkatasubbiah more percentages of them as Mr. Venkatasubbiah rightly said. But, it is not a question of percentages. We have given our blood for this country we have given our blood so that the frontiers of India can reach right up to Central Asia.

Sir, I ask you: when the Indian Gorkhas and the Dogras' blood is shed in the service in the *suraksha* of this nation, can this great House not have sympathy, the understanding, to give their language recognition? Why is it that the Dogras just living in the border areas who are within the firing range of the Pakistani guns and why is it that the Nepalis who are living under the threat of foreign guns, should be treated as if they are second-class citizens in their own nation?

Sir, I am making a plea; I am not going into this problem of the language because there are other languages also; they are roughly 20, 22 or 23 major languages that have developed from thousands and hundreds of dialects in India. But, Sir, these are two languages that have already reached a certain stage of development; they have been recognised by the Sahitya Akademi.

[Dr. Karan Singh]

demi and they have also been recognised by the respective State Governments.

Sir, my plea is afterall this is the tribune of the nation. This House of ours is the highest forum where even small minorities can represent their thoughts, aspirations and emotions. We want to knit this nation together in one great unit. Why should you allow people living in your sensitive areas have a sense of grievance that their language is not accepted. Sir, Bengali is spoken in Bangladesh. Tamil is spoken in Ceylon. It is recognised in Singapore. Punjabi which is one of the Indian languages is spoken in Pakistan. There are Indian punjabis and Pakistan punjabis. There are Indian tamilians and these are Srilanka tamilians. That curtious argument which was brought at one stage is no longer relevant. The Nepalis who are seeking recognition are full-fledged Indians and the Dogras who seek representation their language in this great document also are full-fledged citizens.

I will finally point out that some people say what is the advantage of having it in the Eighth Schedule. When it is, recognised by the State, वही रहने दो, क्या लाभ है?

Let me say there are three major points. The first is the psychological and the emotional point. I do not want to go into emotionalism but I will respectfully submit that emotions and sentiments of Indian citizens when they are genuine, when they are deeply felt and when they do not conflict with any other interest should receive recognition. They should not be brushed aside even if there are 4 million people.

Secondly, Sir, I was incharge of the Ministry of Education for a short while and I know from personal experence that there are many schemes in the Education Ministry which are confined to the development of those languages recognised in the Eighth Schedule. Therefore, it is not as if the non-recognition of a language does not carry with it any disability. I would submit and my friend, Shri Venkatasubbaiah, can check with his colleague, the Minister of Education, that there

are in the Ministry of Education and Culture a large number of projects which are specifically laid down for development of languages in the Eighth Schedule. That means, Sir, the language or the mother tongue of 40 lakh Indians will not get the advantages that are laid down by the Union Ministry of Education.

Finally, Sir, we are developing towards a pluralistic system. The UPSC may start having examinations in various languages. Why is it that the Nepalis and the Dogras who play such an important role when it comes to recruitment in the Army are going to be deprived of the opportunity when it comes to recruitment in the public services. When the UPSC in its wisdom and this House in its wisdom decides that the regional languages are to be used as medium of examination does it mean the Dogras and the Indian Nepalis are going to be deprived of it. I am sure this great House has got a great heart also. It is not a question of getting personally elected or re-elected. As far as I am concerned all the languages are sacred to me whether it is Sanskrit, Hindi or Urdu or whether it is my mother-tongue Dogri or the mother tongue of my wife Nepali. All these language are sacred. There is no attempt to bring in polemics or party consideration. But I would like to point out that this is a real problem. I was very well impressed, if I may say so, by the tone and attitude with which Shri Venkatasubbaiah replied to the debate which was initiated on the Bill by my friend Shri Chitta Basu. I agree, a national consensus is required; I agree that the Prime Minister should take the initiative to call a round-table conference on this matter, to call the concerned people. Let her have a dialogue with the various people and let her understand and realise—I am sure she does—that this is not simply a demand made for any personal or partisan purpose but this is a genuine demand of many lakhs of Indian citizens, patriotic Indian citizens, who only want to play their full role in the development of this nation, this composite, multi-faceted, many-splendoured nation of

ours in which each community counts, howsoever small it may appear numerically. It is like magnificent tapestry where each colour adds its beauty. It is like a great garden where different flowers add their beauty to the totality of India. This is the vision of India that we have seen. It is in dedication to this vision of India that I would like to commend my Bill the acceptance of this hon. House. I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India be taken into consideration."

Shri Daga has an amendment.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali): I move amendment No. 1 standing in my name. I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by 31 October, 1980." (1).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Both the Motion and the amendment are before the House.

Now, Shri Satyagopal Misra.

*SATYAGOPAL MISRA (Tamluk): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, while extending my support in principle to the Bill which seeks to include Dogri and Nepali in the 8th Schedule of the constitution, I would like to say a few things. Sir, India today is comprised of many communities and we have to acknowledge the entity of each community when we think of our country. The existence of each community depends on its language, its culture and its literature. So, vital are these factors, that we cannot afford to miss any one of them. Whenever we think of the emotional and national unity of our country. We have to think it in the light of the concept of unity in diversity that the multiple communities of our country present and if we try to ignore the separate contributions that these com-

munities make towards the total unity of the country and the separate existence of each of these communities then it would amount to give credence to immaturity. It is very pertinent and important to consider how a man grows in his personal life. The most important factor that accounts for the development of a man is his language. It is through his own language that his intelligence develops, his thinking develops, his outlook develops and in fact his existence evolves and grows through it. But this growth and development is achieved best when one can speak and think in his own language and the moment any other language is imposed upon him it reiterates a barrier and retards and obstructs the smooth growth which otherwise could have been achieved if only he were allowed to speak his own language. There is another question that needs to be considered seriously. There are many linguistic minorities in our country and we have to consider it seriously whether it would be just and proper to impose the language of the linguistic majority on those who comprise, the linguistic minority. In my opinion, Sir, it would be a great calamity if we venture to do it in any form for this will seriously impair the national unity. Unfortunately some people prefer to think that there should be only a few recognised languages in our country and these should be imposed on others. Every language has to grow by its own right and it has to chart a course of its own development. Note only Dogri and Nepali but there are other languages in our country which exist and are growing. We have to ensure that nothing is done that will create hindrance in their growth. We have been consistently saying this in the past and we will continue to take the same position in future also. If such hindrances are created then the emotional and national unity of our country will be in jeopardy. We have, therefore, to consider how we can include Dogri and Nepali in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution. Sir the 8th Schedule of the Constitution does not anywhere say that only the

[Shri Satyagopal Misra]

languages that are enumerated there will be there and no other language can be included therein. The makers of the Constitution did not introduce a full stop after including some languages in the Schedule. If that is so then we can proceed to consider the factors that will make a language eligible for inclusion in the 8th Schedule. Some of the factors in my opinion are whether a particular language has attained a level of development where it merits to be grouped among the national languages already enumerated in the 8th Schedule, whether the number of persons speaking the language is substantial, whether the language has its own script, is rich in literature and finally we have to see whether the language has helped the growth of the culture of the community that speak the particular language. We are now to test whether both Dogri and Nepali, fulfil these conditions or not. Sir, as has been stated by my predecessor speakers, both Dogri and Nepali are spoken by a very large number of our population, both have their own script and in both the cases the literature is substantial and rich. The fact of their being rich literary is substantiated by the fact that Sahitya Academy have recognised these two languages already. Not only this, even at Government level both the languages have been recognised by some State Governments. When we refer to the languages being recognised by States some people say that these are raised as vote catching devices. I regret to say that such statements coming from whatever corner they may be only show how narrow minded we can be. We indulge in many tall talks but in reality our actions do not always conform to the lofty principles that we preach and Dr. Karan Singh as the mover of the present Bill is strongly urging for the inclusion of these two languages in the 8th Schedule and on principle I am supporting it. But can we forget the fact that when in the past similar requests were made, the Government

of which he was a part had turned down such requests? Where was he then? Therefore, we have to be honest about what we say. There should be no gulf between what we say and what we do. Sir, so far as we are concerned I have no hesitation to say that we have been both consistent in our speeches and our action. The Government of West Bengal have recognised not only Nepali but they have given recognition to Santhali—the language of the minority tribals that inhabit the State and true to their profession they are trying their best for the development of these two languages. Thus if we follow what we say then not only our credibility will be honoured but it will do us and nation a lot of good. A little while ago the members of the treasury bench expressed some sympathies for Nepali language. But as ~~stated~~ already mere words would not carry us anywhere. The words spoken by the then Minister will have to be supported by matching action and only future will bear testimony how far the Government lived upto what it said. There is another point that I would like to stress upon. It is a common knowledge that in our class ridden society the ruling class has always adopted very many ways to strengthen and perpetuate their stranglehold on the society so that their right to exploit the society and its members gets a perpetual lease. The exploiters will always try to impose a language on others, particularly, the linguistic minorities at the national level because it suits their purpose. They would never like the idea that a very large number of people who constitute the linguistic minority are able to grow and rise in the national sphere through their own languages. They cannot brook the idea of these communities standing on their own legs and develop to make their own existence felt through their own languages. The very concept runs counter to their scheme of exploitation and it is never dear to them no matter whatever good words they may choose to speak in favour of such linguistic minorities. But is it really impossible

to achieve the objective and accord legitimate growth to all the languages which are not there in the 8th Schedule? (How have the Soviet people with multiple languages solved their problems? Can't we charter some such course for ourselves in solving the problem of the linguistic minorities?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Misra, you may continue your speech next time.

18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, June 16, 1980/Jyaistha 26, 1902 (Saka).

PLS. 40. IV. 5.80

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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Sixth Edition) and printed by the General Manager, Government of India Press, Minto Road, New Delhi.
